



SAR Alabama



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Season's Greetings Compatriots!
What a year. As 2021 draws to a close, I am grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm you have shown this year. The Alabama Society continues to take on various administrative projects and efforts serving our communities to ensure we finish strong.

A few highlights since my last message:

- The Online Payment Presidential Study Group has been working hard to thoroughly research this effort and I am so pleased with their efforts. They have held online meetings with other state societies to see what works and what does not. Chairman Michael Martin has done an excellent job and brings an excellent background as does the entire study group (with emphasis). I am excited we are taking our society to the next level in exploring fintech. I hope more advances in technology and media will be incorporated in the year ahead.

- On Dec. 9, I inducted the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter officers. Newly elected chapter president Brian Head will do an excellent job. He has served as chapter secretary for many years.

- On Dec. 14, I will be installing the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter officers. Chapter president-elect Jeremy Ward will be taking the helm.

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ALSSAR convention returns to Hoover

The annual ALSSAR convention will be held on Feb. 25-26, 2002, at the Hoover Embassy Suites, returning to the location after a one-year detour because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The event from moved from Prattville to a permanent site in Hoover prior to the 2018 convention by the Board of Managers. It was held there again in 2019 but was moved to the American Village's Liberty Hall last year because of the pandemic.

The event will kick off with a welcome reception at the Embassy Suites on Friday, Feb. 25. *A registration form for the hotel can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.*

The convention includes the youth awards

competition on Saturday morning, followed by the annual business meeting. Among the highlights of the business meeting will be the presentation by a study group of its findings on providing compatriots the option of paying their annual dues online, a growing trend at other state societies.

In addition, other study groups will be appointed to develop the ALSAAR's social media reach, to explore methods for the Alabama Society to support the 250th anniversary of America's independence in 2026 and for the retention and recruitment of new members.

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American Village opens West Wing addition as educational experience



—Photo courtesy of Jeremy Ward

NSSAR Secretary General Bruce Pickette, President General Davis Wright were on hand for the opening of the West Wing.

On Thursday, November 4, 2021, the American Village celebrated the grand opening of the newest addition to its historically inspired campus and educational programs, the West Wing of Independence Hall.

The recently completed West Wing includes an immersive museum experience designed to take visitors "back in time" to Boston, Massachusetts on the eve of Paul Revere's Ride and the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Guests then will enter the West Wing's multi-sensory theater to view the American Village's exciting new film "Choosing to be an American People."

The West Wing represents the realization of the first phase of the American Village's three phase vision to bring to life a full-scale replica of Philadelphia's Independence Hall ahead of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.

Once complete, the comprehensive Independence Hall project will serve as a cornerstone for teaching about America's remarkable founding and Charters of

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Message

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He too will do an excellent job and his past articles submitted to our newsletter... he is an amazing writer.

• On Jan. 22, I will be installing the Gen. Bernardo de Galvez chapter officers and be the featured speaker. Always on the go, I am working on the speech at this writing. Mark your calendars, the ALSSAR

annual meeting and convention is scheduled for Feb. 25-26 in Hoover. Our featured speaker will be NSSAR Secretary General and President General candidate Bruce Pickette. Make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

I hope you each will take a few days off to recharge and rest up this holiday season. My two teenagers and a newly minted tween are holding me to some down-

time. I hope you will do the same and enjoy this time of year.

Compatriots, a full schedule in 2022 is ahead and the 250th American Independence groundwork is in the planning stages. As your president, it continues to be my pleasure to serve you and I look forward to continuing to visit with my fellow Compatriots.

—William A. Kirkland II, Esq.

Revolutionary War actually featured 11 revolutions, not one

Was the war in which the United States won its independence from Britain also a revolution?

Compared with the French Revolution, the American Revolution was hardly revolutionary. What happened in what became the United States between 1775 and 1783 was certainly not an economic or social revolution. In some ways, the states in 1783 were more like they were as colonies than they are like those states today.

Although many loyalists fled to Nova Scotia and other British colonies during the war, the new state constitutions did not generally replace one class with another in leadership positions, and many of the colonial leaders became state leaders. What changed was not so much personnel as institutions. More than replacing the persons who held power, the American Revolution redefined the positions of power.

A modern United States federal election could conceivably replace the president, vice-president, cabinet, a third of the Senate, and all of the members of the House of Representatives, but there would still be no revolution if the same constitution prevailed.

Personnel change can occur without constitutional change, because constitutions are not concerned with who is in office as much as how they are chosen, what they can or cannot do legally, and how they will be replaced.

When I composed my dissertation, called *Abolishing the Forms To Which They Were Accustomed: Constitutional Changes as the Colonies Became States*, I compared the first state constitutions with the colonial frames of government they replaced. I attempted to answer the question: "How revolutionary, in an institutional sense, was the American Revolution?"

I concluded that most of the new states experienced true political revolutions. In reality, there was not a single revolution, but many, as each colony became a state. In 11 of the 13 states, there was enough political change to justify the term revolutionary, and some were more revolutionary than others.

Connecticut and Rhode Island were exceptions. They were the only two colonies that did not write new constitutions in their transition from colonies to states. They did not have to. They were already virtually independent.

They already elected both their lower and upper houses of their legislatures, and they even elected their governors, who served terms of only one year. Connecticut and Rhode Island also had the most frequent legislative elections. Before 1776, Rhode Island and Connecticut were practically independent already, except for trade and foreign policy. Consequently, they merely adapted their colonial charters as their first state constitutions.

In the other 11 colonies, independence required revolution. British imperial policy before the French and Indian War had allowed them more self-determination than contemporary French or Spanish colonies, but they were not at all like Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The voice of non-elected officials, in 11 of the 13 colonies, was loud enough to drown out the voice of elected representatives. In those colonies, Americans were subject to officials and even some upper house legislators who were in no way subject to them.

Eight of the states drafted new constitutions in 1776, four of them even before the Declaration of Independence. Two of these rewrote their first constitutions by 1785. Two other states wrote their first

constitutions in 1777. Massachusetts was the last state to draft a constitution, which it completed in 1780, but that constitution lasted into the 20th century. Connecticut and Rhode Island did not write new constitutions until 1818 and 1842, respectively.

Most dramatic of all the institutional changes wrought by American independence was the conversion of partially representative governments into fully representative ones in which every state official was either elected or chosen by someone who was elected.

Power before 1776 came from above and below, but after independence it came only from the electorate over whom it was exercised. Self-government was the most important legacy of the American Revolution.

In most colonial governments, beyond the local level, only the legislatures contained persons who were elected, and these were usually confined to the lower of two houses. In most states, the American Revolution made legislatures more representative, not only by making more of the members subject to election, but also by increasing the number of legislators, by shortening the terms of the legislators, by requiring legislators to have been and be residents of the districts they represented, and, in some cases, by reapportionment to increase representation for western regions that had gained population.

Some of the new states also reduced qualifications for voting so that more of the inhabitants could participate in the election process. Behind all these changes was the idea that taxes and laws should be made by representatives of the people who would have to pay those taxes and obey those laws.

In other words, there should be no taxation or legislation without representation. For one man to tax another man without his consent was considered theft. For one man to pass a law for another man without his consent was considered slavery.

Before independence, only five of the 13 colonies had fully elected legislatures. Besides Rhode Island and Connecticut, they were Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Massachusetts. The legislatures of Pennsylvania and Delaware were unicameral, consisting of only one elected house. In Massachusetts, the elected members of the lower house chose the members of the upper house. Eight of the 13 states had upper houses of their legislatures composed of members who were not elected but chosen by non-elected leaders who inherited authority.

The king of Britain chose the members of the upper houses of seven of the colonies, and a proprietor chose the members of the upper house of Maryland. After independence, every state elected all members of the legislature, either directly or indirectly.

The first state constitutions also made the legislatures more representative by increasing the number of legislators, which reduced the number of persons per legislator, increasing the opportunity for constituents to be heard. Every state except Connecticut and Rhode Island added more legislators, eight of them by significant amounts. In New York, for example, the number of legislators increased from 43 to 94.

Before the revolution, appointed members of the upper houses of eight colonies had served indefinite terms, and many states had lower house legislators who were elected for multi-year terms.

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Revolution

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After the new state constitutions, members of all the lower houses of the state legislatures, and of the unicameral legislatures of Pennsylvania and Georgia, served no more than one year, except for South Carolina, in which the term was two years. The maximum number of years a member of the upper house of a state legislature served, after independence, was five years. In eight of the new states, the maximum number of years between legislative elections was only two.

Writers of the first state constitutions also helped to make legislatures more representative by establishing residence requirements for legislators. By requiring lawmakers to come from the areas for which they would speak, the constitution drafters rejected the principle of virtual representation by which Parliament had claimed the right to legislate for Americans who did not sit in it.

Eight of the 11 states that wrote new constitutions required not only that a legislator be a resident of the state but also of the district he represented. South Carolina required a legislator to have property in the district he represented. The first state constitutions related representation for districts to their population.

Seven of the 11 states that wrote new constitutions expanded suffrage by reducing property requirements to vote. Merely paying taxes met the property requirement in three states (Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and North Carolina), and New York cut property requirements for voting in half. In New Jersey, the 1776 constitution technically even allowed women to vote.

The American Revolution was most revolutionary in what it did to the office of governor. Governors of 11 of the 13 colonies were not elected. They owed their positions not to the persons they governed, but rather to the king or proprietor who appointed them. If they wanted to keep their jobs, they had to please the king or proprietor, not the people over whom they exercised authority.

Only Connecticut and Rhode Island elected their governors before 1776. The king appointed the governors of eight of the colonies, and proprietors chose the governors of three others.

After the Revolution, governors were all chosen either directly by voters or by legislators who themselves had been elected. The new state constitutions made all governors responsible to the people.

Seven of the new state constitutions allowed the elected legislatures to choose the chief executives. The other six states let voters directly elect the governor, or president, or executive council that acted as chief executive. By making the governor's office representative, writers of the first state constitutions made certain that those who exercised power over others would be under their power as well.

The first state constitutions took a large step toward John Locke's ideal of government by consent of the governed when they made governors subject to the authority of many of those over whom they exercised authority.

The new state constitutions also reduced the terms of the governors or chief executives. Before 1776, there was no limit to the terms for governors appointed by the king or proprietor in 11 of the 13 states. They served indefinitely, or at the pleasure of the aristocrat who appointed them. Only Connecticut and Rhode Island limited the terms of their governors. After independence, every governor served a term that ranged from one to three years.

Independence increased the power of the legislatures over the governors. In colonial times, appointed governors could not only veto acts of the legislatures but could also prorogue them or determine when and where they would be called into session. The first state constitutions, except in three states, denied the governor the power to veto an act. In eight of the 11 states that wrote new constitutions, governors could not prorogue the legislatures. In the other three, the governor's power to prorogue was limited to not more than 90 days.

Not content with making the governor responsible to the people, the state constitutions took away much of his power. The constitution writers did not want to concentrate power in the hands of any one person, even if he were popular.

The policy is not surprising in light of the fact that nine of the state constitutions were written by the state legislatures, and royal or proprietary governors had often defied the legislatures of the colonies before their independence as states.

The principle of separation of powers and checks and balances was

written into the first state constitutions long before it was incorporated into the federal constitution of 1787.

Five of the 13 new states limited the number of offices that could be held by any one person. Every state that wrote a new constitution forbid certain officials from sitting in the legislature or in more than one branch of government at the same time. Eight of the new constitutions allowed judges to serve during good behavior rather than at the pleasure of who appointed them, making those judges more impartial and independent. Seven of the first state constitutions forbid clergymen from sitting in the legislature, moving toward the idea of separation of church and state.

Distributing power among different branches was a method state founding fathers used to insure that the new governments would limit the power of any one man or body of persons. The first American constitutions increased the number of political offices for which persons could vote or run. Some officials could not serve subsequent terms, allowing greater rotation in office and more opportunity for others to hold positions of authority. In seven states, officials had to leave an office for a certain number of years before they could hold that office again. The new constitutions encouraged transfers of power because the framers distrusted anyone who held much power for much time. Like Lord Acton, they believed that power often corrupted.

The first state constitutions limited the power of state governments by more than separation of powers and checks and balances. Seven of them also contained declarations of rights that defined the rights of individuals that no government should violate. The place of the declarations of rights was usually at the beginning of the constitution, demonstrating that the purpose of government is to protect the rights of the people.

The rights of Englishmen had become the rights of Americans, and the rights of Americans had become the rights of humanity.

The seven state declarations of rights were remarkably similar to one another. Some were copied almost word for word from the constitutions of neighboring states caught up in the common struggle, reflecting a consensus of political ideals. They included freedom of religion, or the idea that the government should neither dictate a certain religion nor forbid a certain religion; right to trial by a jury of peers; freedom from self-incrimination, which implied a hostility to government-applied torture for confessions; freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures; and a host of other rights that later found their way into the first 10 amendments of the federal constitution.

In summary, 11 of the new states wrote new constitutions that revolutionized their governments. By making both houses of the legislature elective, by increasing the number of legislators, by shortening legislative terms, by relating representation to population, by increasing representation for the growing western districts, by establishing residency requirements for legislators, and by enabling a larger percentage of the population to vote, the new state constitutions generally made legislatures more representative and democratic.

By making governors subject to direct or indirect election, by limiting their terms of office, and by requiring them to be residents, state constitution writers forced governors to be more sensitive to the needs and wants of those over whom they exercised authority.

By separating the powers of government into branches that could check each other, by sharply reducing the governor's power, by making judges more independent of those who appointed them, and by enumerating individual rights, the new state constitutions limited the powers of government and its officials.

More elected offices, requirements for rotation in office, and prohibitions on multiple office-holding increased the opportunity of the people to hold public office.

In all of these ways, the new state constitutions took significant steps in the direction of greater liberty and democracy. The emerging state governments were not very progressive compared with later constitutions, because representation and office holding were still mostly limited to white men with certain amounts of property and certain religious beliefs, but the new governments were significantly more democratic than the ones they replaced.

They furnished models for the later federal constitution and for new governments created in Europe by the convulsions of the French Revolution and the armies of Napoleon.

—Daniel L. Haulman

Opening

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Freedom, and will enable the American Village to serve more than 250,000 students, educators, and other visitors each year.

The festivities on November 4 began with a celebratory program in Liberty Hall. Notable speakers included Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, American Village founder and president Tom Walker, and Chancellor of Troy University and Chair of the American Village Board of Trustees Dr. Jack Hawkins. Sons of the American Revolution were also well represented at the West Wing program, both at the National and State levels. NSSAR President General Davis Wright, NSSAR Secretary General Bruce Pickett, ALSSAR President William Kirkland, and numerous compatriots from the Alabama Society were in attendance to help mark the occasion.

The ALSSAR Color Guard, led by State Commander Joe Barker, played a large role in the day's activities. They presented, posted, and retired the colors in the morning program in Liberty Hall and later, Compatriot Martin Brady coordinated a musket salute at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held in front of the West Wing of Independence Hall.

It is also important to note that ALSSAR members were instrumental in helping to make the display cases inside the West Wing possible. Compatriots Jim Maples (Tennessee Valley Chapter) and Bill Stone (General John Archer Elmore Chapter) loaned numerous authentic Revolutionary War artifacts to help create the "British Soldier" and "American Patriot" exhibits inside the immersive Boston experience. Compatriot Martin Brady created several of the replica items that are on display in this space as well.

It truly was a day to remember and the American Village was honored to have so many of its wonderful SAR friends present. The important work SAR and the American Village do to preserve America's rich founding history is more critical now than it has ever been for the future of our country. Working together as partners and stakeholders, Sons of the American Revolution and American Village have the opportunity to educate and inspire even greater numbers of our fellow citizens to know and cherish America's rich history.

—Jeremy Ward



—Photos courtesy of Jeremy Ward

Above, Jeremy Ward, Development Officer of American Village, and President General Davis Wright at Liberty Tree. Below from left, Edmon McKinley, Wright and ALSSAR President William Kirkland exchange challenge coins.



Convention

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The Saturday evening banquet will include the annual awards presentation as well as the installation of new ALSSAR officers.

A nominating committee recommended the following compatriots for office:

William E. Daniel Jr., president, Cahaba-Coosa; James Griffith Jr., vice president, Tennessee Valley; Eric Alford, secretary, Gen. John A. Elmore;

Michael Martin, recording secretary, Cahaba-Coosa; John Van Zandt, treasurer, Gen. Galvez; Ron Bearden, registrar, Little River; Rev. John Killian, chaplain, Birmingham; Bob England, historian, Shoals Area; Earl Gilliam, genealogist, Gen. John A. Elmore; Joseph Barker, sergeant-at-arms, Gen. John A. Elmore; Jay Maples, chancellor, Tennessee Valley; William Kirkland, trustee; Gen. Richard Montgomery; and Daniel, alternate trustee.

The committee, chaired by former ALSSAR president Edmon McKinley, also provided two nominees for the Endowment Fund Board — John Wallace for a two-year term and Stephen Hooks for a three-year term — to join current member Price Legg.

NSSAR Secretary General Bruce Pickett, former ALSSAR president, will be the featured speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. Pickett is a candidate for President General in 2022.



—Photo courtesy of Jess Brown

The grave-marking ceremony at Mt. Paran Cemetery was attended by, from left: Robert Sapp, president of the Georgia Brigade, Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge (DVF); Tennessee Valley chapter president Benny Hannah; Susan Royer, commander of Alabama Brigade of DVF; Susan Meer, national commander-in-chief of DVF; Patrice Donnelly, state regent, DAR; Tammy Clemons, Vice President Generation of the NSDAR; Susan Shaver, regent, Twickenham Town chapter of DAR; Penny Chilton, vice regent, Maple Hill chapter of DAR; and Janet Acosta, senior president of the John Hunt chapter of ALCAR.

Trio of Revolutionary War patriots honored by Tennessee Valley in grave-marking ceremony in Madison County

The Tennessee Valley chapter served as one of five sponsoring groups for a large-scale, grave-marking ceremony to honor three patriots of the American Revolutionary War in October.

All three patriots are buried in the same historic Mt. Paran Cemetery near New Market, just east of Huntsville in rural Madison County. This cemetery, perhaps the oldest in Madison County, is the final resting place for Revolutionary War veterans Jacob Caulk, Samuel Davis and Moses Poor.

Among the three honored patriots, Jacob Caulk is of special note. He served with George Washington during the famous winter encampment at Valley Forge. Patriot Caulk also participated in the strategically important battle at Cowpens, S.C., under the command of Gen. Daniel Morgan for whom Morgan County is named. Unlike most soldiers in the Revolutionary War, Caulk served for several years during the war.

The event was sponsored jointly by five organizations whose members are bloodline descendants of patriots from the Revolutionary War. These groups were the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge (DVF), the Tennessee Valley chapter, the John Hunt Society of the Children of the Ameri-

can Revolution and two area chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Those two DAR chapters were Twickenham Town and Maple Hill.

Because Caulk, a veteran of Valley Forge, was being recognized, the commander-in-chief of the national DVF, Susan Gillette Meer, was in Huntsville for the ceremony.

Other leaders of patriotic groups in attendance included Patrice Donnelly, state regent, Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution; Tammy Clemons, Vice President General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; Susan Royer, Alabama Brigade Commander of the DVF; and Bob Sapp, Georgia Brigade Commander of the DVF.

Several descendants of the three honored patriots were among the approximately 75 persons in attendance. The event was covered by three of the network-affiliated TV stations in Huntsville. George Jones and Tish Cates of the Mt. Paran Cemetery organization also participated.

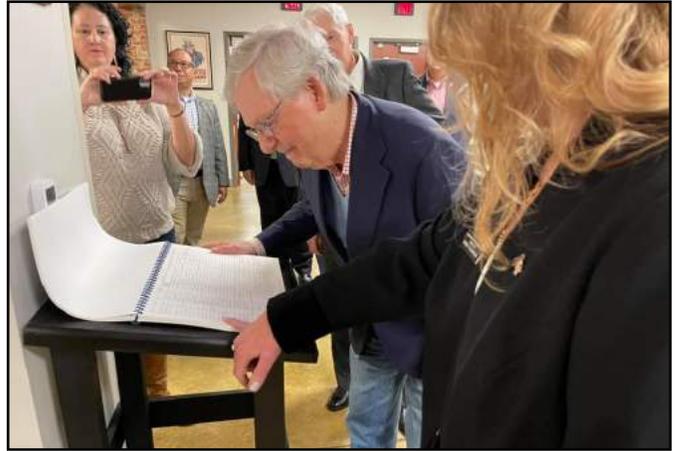
Caulk, Davis and Poor became early settlers in Madison County and died there between 1820 and 1845.

—Jess Brown

—Photo courtesy of Alabama Veterans Museum

Sen. McConnell looks over Alabama database

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is learning about his patriot ancestor during a recent visit to the Alabama Veterans Museum in Athens. McConnell, an SAR compatriot who spent much of his childhood in Athens, is searching the Alabama Patriots Database, which was developed as an initiative of the Tennessee Valley chapter. McConnell's ancestor, James McConnell Sr., of the North Carolina militia, lived in both Marshall and Limestone counties.



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter welcomes new compatriot

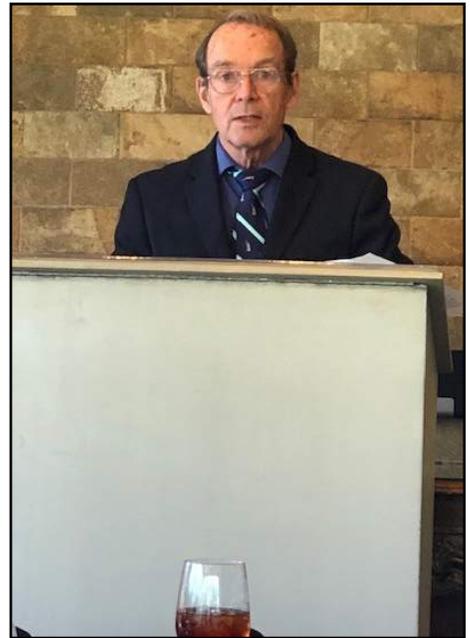
Above, Cheaha genealogist Ron Burson, left, and president Robert Folsom, right, welcome new member Tucker Houston at October meeting before Peter Leavitt took the podium as “Peter the Patriot,” right, with vice president Eric Sloughfy, Folsom and Houston.



—Photos courtesy of Jason Williams

Historian entertains R.H. Lee compatriots

Retired USAF historian and Gen. Richard Montgomery compatriot Dr. Daniel Haulman, right, provided an informative program on “The Other British Colonies of North America During the American Revolution” at the Richard Henry Lee chapter meeting in October. At left, Haulman is greeted by chapter president Bob Harris.



When choosing a gun, match time, place and person

Well now, you've come back! Good to see you. Please, come in and sit. Yes. It's been hot but wet too. Lots of rain this year. Speaking of wet, have a drink of cool well water. We put the hand pump in last year and it is great having it. Nothing like a cold drink of fresh well water.

I hear you are looking for a gun. Not just any gun, but a "Flintlock" that would have been used by the Patriots during the American Revolution 1775 – 1783. Well, while your time frame may be short, there is no "short list" of possibilities.

I have stated before most of us grew up with the stories of Lexington and Concord. That the British with their red coats and white cross belts marching in column down the open road made perfect targets for the "Minute Men" firing at them from cover of rocks and trees with their trusty "Kentucky" (?) long rifles. Well, not really.

It is doubtful there were any "rifled" guns there at all. Even the gun attributed to Captain John Parker was not a "rifled gun". More on this in a moment.

"The provincials have not a rifle among them, not one yet arrived from the southward; nor have they any rifle guns; they have only common muskets, nor are they in general furnished with bayonets; but then, they are almost all marksmen, being accustomed to sporting of one kind or other from their youth." Dr. William Gordon, Personal Letter, 1775

After the shocking occurrence on the Lexington Green, the British moved off to Concord. While gone, Captain Parker rallied his men and others coming in to join them. Knowing the "Regulars" would have to pass his way returning to Charlestown, Parker took his men west of Lexington to just outside Lincoln and selected a rocky high spot that overlooked the road where it made a turn and then crossed a creek. This spot is now known as the "Bloody Angle" and / or the "Battle of Parkers Revenge." Got goosebumps yet? Here the Patriots (using muskets and fowlers) put down a devastating fire on the British Regulars until finally being driven off. However, they continued to follow and harass the British Regulars till they met their reinforcements in Lexington.

Now, let's talk about these guns and the others used by Patriot forces during the war. We can start by breaking them down into two basic categories, Martial



—Photo courtesy of M.P. Brady

An early English trade gun (1750) adapted for military use, cut back fore stock for bayonet and sling added.

and civilian. Martial or military guns would have been muskets. At this time, 1775, these guns are for military use, plain and simple. Whether made locally, in the colonies or abroad, they followed the set pattern of being stout, dependable, and smooth bore, with the capacity for a bayonet.

The ultimate was the British Land pattern (Brown Bess) musket. Dutch and Colonial makers used this as their pattern to make at least functioning, if not reasonably dependable copies. Bore size and hardware were not exact and a mismatch of imported parts and local manufacture.

You may hear some of this type called "Committee of Safety Guns" or Militia Muskets. But they all were made for some type of military use. Along with muskets there were "Fusils," a lighter dressed up version of the musket carried by officers and "Carbines," a short barreled version of the musket, used by calvary, sailors and other special units.

There were also old military muskets available. Perhaps leftovers and seconds from the previous French & Indian War.

These would have been made available for sale or trade through regular trading houses or merchants dealing in such goods. Purchased or traded individually these would have been used for hunting and militia duty. Maybe even purchased in quantity to supply local militia?

The other classification is Civilian Fire Arms. The most prevalent of these were "Fowling pieces" or "hunting guns." These were made for the chase, be it beast or fowl. Most of these were smooth bore guns enabling the shooter to use shot for fowl or a single round

ball for deer, bear, elk, or bison.

Many colonists were familiar with this type gun. This is also the type gun Captain John Parker carried that April morning on to the green at Lexington.

Captain Parker's gun was a .62 caliber smooth bore (20 GA.) with a 44-inch long barrel. It was a hunting gun made of mixed English and Dutch parts. It is currently in the State House in Massachusetts, given to the state by his grandson, the Rev. Theodore Parker, in 1861.

These hunting guns were also easily adaptable for military use. The smooth bore made it possible to load them in the military way, with paper cartridge. The stock at the muzzle could be cut back to accept a bayonet, or the older style "plug" bayonet could be used.

Another type of smooth bore that was available was the "Trade Gun." These were cheaper versions of the older military musket that were used for the Indian trade.

While made as cheaply as possible, they still had to be dependable. The Indians early on recognized the serpent side plate on these guns (used on early 1700s muskets) as a mark of quality.

These guns had flat iron trigger guards, sheet brass butt plate and ram rod thimbles and many with painted stocks of either red, blue or black. At the news of the events at Lexington, Concord and Boston, a group of young men broke into the magazine at Williamsburg, VA and made off with "guns with painted stocks destined for the Indian Trade."

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Guns

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The late comer to the events in New England was the "Rifled Gun" AKA at the time "The American Rifle." When units from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia arrived at Boston, in the summer of 1775, many of them carried the Long Rifle, especially Thompson's Rifle Battalion from PA and Morgan's from VA.

This is an event noted in several diaries and letters, "they arrived in white hunting shirts with their rifled guns," so noted as the guns and dress were unusual. By then, things at Boston had slowed to a siege. Riflemen eager to get into the action were limited to patrols and were at times chastised for wasting powder sniping!

The American Rifled Gun in 1775 was not what many of us think of. It was, for the most part NOT over embellished with an ornate pierced and engraved brass patch box or silver mountings. It was rather a long slender version of its predecessor, the German Jaeger (hunter) rifle.

These fine slender guns with a longer rifled barrel (40 to 49 inches) fired a smaller ball at much farther distance. The longer sight radius was an advantage as well. While there were a few that sported simple brass patch boxes, many had some Rococo style carving on the stock and a wooden patch box lid like the Jaeger rifles. Not all of these were rifled, but those that were could send a ball to a target 200 yards away as compared to the British musket 75 yard effective range.

Let me try to put the long rifle's time frame in perspective for you. The German immigrants settling in Pennsylvania and small surrounding area first started making the Jaeger style rifles circa 1740s. The pretty ornate "Kentucky" (actually Pennsylvania) rifles many think of when long rifle is mentioned were built in what is called "The Golden Age," 1790 – 1830s.

The long rifles built prior to and used in the Revolutionary War are what are known as "Transitional" rifles. Transitioning from the short heavy, large bore hunting gun with Rococo carving to the long slender silver and brass mounted guns of the golden age. So looking for a long rifle to use for Revolutionary War, you want a "Transitional" Long Rifle. (One with wooden patch box or simple brass)

As the siege around Boston progresses and more men arrived, there was a desperate need to arm men. A windfall occurred



—Photo courtesy of M.P. Brady

Reproduced early trade gun by Clay Smith of Williamsburg, Va.

in very late November (1775). A British supply ship, the *HMS Nancy* was captured by a privateer, the schooner *Lee*, with 2500 stands of arms, along with cannons, mortars, flints, 40 tons of shot, almost everything needed but powder. But to General Washington's horror a month later these weapons disappeared. Many of the enlistments had run out and soldiers leaving for home, and against orders, took the much needed muskets with them.

Throughout the remainder of the war it was a constant struggle to get and keep the men properly armed. In this case it meant equipping everyone with a musket.

These muskets came from local manufacture, rifle builders in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia were contracted to make muskets. Captured British and Prussian supplies and stocks were distributed.

From across the big pond, when funds were available, muskets were purchased from European countries such as the Dutch Republic, France and Spain. After France's alliance with the new United States in 1778, the French Charleville musket became increasingly more available to Patriot Troops. The 1728, 1763, 1766, and 1777 models all saw service during the revolution.

As the war went on it is evident that many more muskets were used by soldiers than any other type.

So while we have just a few short years in time, we have a variety of firelocks that were used. When deciding on a purchase the trick is to match up time, place and person using the firelock. What year in the war is it? Where is this person / soldier from and where is he now? Is he an officer

or a young soldier with no means to supply his own firelock and must use whatever the army gives him?

While research can be a daunting task at times, it has its rewards. A well-researched and documented firelock for use with Color Guard or historical presentations will not only give you knowledge of the piece but confidence that your equipment is correct as well.

And you have to admit, it is as much fun for you as it is educational for the public or students.

How's your uniform coming along? Perhaps next time you visit we can discuss clothing and fabrics of the Rev War or even uniforms. Till then be safe with that fire stick.

—M. P. Brady

References:

Collectors Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Revolutionary War, George C. Neumann & Frank J. Kravic

The history of Weapons of the American Revolution, George C. Neumann

The Pennsylvania – Kentucky Rifle, Henry J. Kauffman

The Frontier Rifleman, Richard B. La-Crosse, Jr.

Sketchbook 76, (The American Soldier 1775-1781), Robert L. Klinger

1776, by David McCullough
www.history-of-american-wars.com/Revolutionary-War-Uniforms.html

Clay Smith, claysmith@cox.net
4560 Village Park Dr. East, Williamsburg, Va. 23185



**Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Annual Business Meeting and Convention Registration
February 25-26, 2022
Hoover, Alabama**



**Hotel Reservation Information
Hoover Embassy Suites
2960 John Hawkins Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35244**

Phone Number: 205-985-9994

SPECIAL ROOM RATE: \$129/NIGHT PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES

(use Sons of the American Revolution to get the special rate)

ATTENDEES MUST MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS (cutoff date is February 1)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE AT ALL FUNCTIONS

NAME: _____ **GUEST(S):** _____

CHAPTER: _____ **OFFICE HELD:** _____

◇ **REGISTRATION FEE:** SAR MEMBERS: _____ x \$35 \$ _____

GUESTS: _____ x \$20 \$ _____

◇ **GENEALOGY WORKSHOP** NO COST _____
Friday 3:00pm - 4:30pm—Presented by _____
ALSSAR Registrar Ron Bearden Number attending

◇ **RECEPTION (Business Casual - Jacket preferred)**
Friday 6:30pm - 8:00pm (Cash Bar) _____ x \$25 \$ _____

◇ **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (Coat & tie)**
Saturday 8:30am
Orations Contest 11:00am

◇ **YOUTH AWARDS LUNCHEON (Coat & tie)** _____ x \$40 \$ _____
Saturday 12:00pm - 2:00pm

◇ **SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET: (Black tie for head table and new officers. Others: black tie, uniform, or coat and tie; appropriate dress for ladies.)**
Social/Cash Bar 5:30pm-6:30pm - Dinner 6:30pm _____ x \$55 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

A headcount for meals and the reception must be provide to the hotel by **Friday, February 18th** so please have your registration in by that date. Mail your registration form along with you check payable to **ALSSAR Convention** to:

**Rich Johnson
ALSSAR 2022 Convention
708 Reston Dr
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406**

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

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 or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by March 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.



—Photo courtesy of Richard Johnson

State Color Guard Commander Joseph Baker leads the Color Guard during the dedication of Revolutionary War markers in Tuscaloosa.

Black Warrior River honors local patriots

Many of Tuscaloosa's most important and influential early citizens, including five veterans of the American Revolution, are buried in Tuscaloosa's Greenwood Cemetery.

The DAR's Chief Tuscaloosa chapter, in concert with the SAR's Black Warrior River chapter, joined several other civic-minded organizations for a dedication ceremony on Oct. 30, 2021.

That history does not end with those five graves. Much of Tuscaloosa's history is encapsulated in the cemetery, which also features three veterans of the War of 1812, including Levin Powell, the state senator who was instrumental in bringing the state capital to Tuscaloosa in 1826.

The Alabama Color Guard consisting of 12 members from across the states of Alabama and Florida provided a key element to the ceremony.

Each Patriot was recognized and given a short history by a descendant. Patriots Robert Cunningham-NC, Richard Inge-VA, Reuben Jones-SC, Samuel Morrow-SC and Richardson Owen-NC all received markers to honor their commitment to a free nation.