

SAR Alabama

Volume 16, Number 1

March, 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is certainly an honor to become your new society president. Many good things have been accomplished within our state over the past several years, but much work still lays ahead for all of us.

I am committed to seeing our membership grow while working to retain as many of our current members as possible. The retention of members with three to four years' experience is vital for our society to have a pool of compatriots ready to assume leadership positions within the chapter, state, and national organization.

The National Society's census program has the potential to provide each chapter with numerous prospects for membership. It is up to each of us to "follow up" on every new lead that we receive; the person you contact today may well be a future chapter or state president!

In turn, if you yourself have received a census form, please complete it and return the data to the National Headquarters in a timely manner. The call your second cousin in Nebraska receives from a local chapter there might be all it takes to get him to join the SAR.

The proclamation signed by the Governor designating April 19 as Patriot Day in Alabama is another valuable tool for us in keeping alive

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Wallace, new officers installed at Birmingham convention

John R. Wallace of Enterprise was installed as the 2002 president of the Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution, one of the highlights of the annual convention at Birmingham's Sheraton Perimeter Park South on Feb. 22-23.

The convention also selected statewide winners in the Rumbaugh Oration Contest and the Knight Essay Contest as well as conducted normal society business.

Among the 112 registered members and



—Photo courtesy of Richard Kemp

New president John Wallace, right, presents outgoing president Michael Wells with Liberty Bell Award as Elizabeth Wells looks on.

guests were 31 from the host Birmingham chapter, 11 each from the Richard Montgomery and Tennessee Valley chapters,

nine from the Black Warrior chapter, eight from the Wiregrass chapter, six from the Etowah chapter, four each from the Cullman and Tri-State chapters, two each from the General Galvez and Richard Henry Lee chapters and one from the Little River chapter.

In addition to Wallace, officers selected for the coming year include James Kerry Barksdale, Senior Vice President; James H. Maples, Secretary;

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ALSSAR working on patriot grave data base

Compatriots Gene Gravlee and Hoyt Smith are in the process of completing a data base to ensure Revolutionary War soldiers' and patriots' graves in Alabama will not be lost.

The pair are in the process of creating a Web site, but in the meantime are asking every ALSSAR member to get involved with the project.

"We need for each member to assist in this project as it will take a team effort to complete," Gravlee said. "This project will be a part of the Graves Registration project now being led by Hoyt. We need as much of the following information and we realize all will not be available."

The following information is needed for every soldier's or patriot's grave site:

Last Name; First Name; Middle Name; Rank; Service; Birth Date; Death Date; County of

Death; Cemetery buried in; City; Township-Range-Section where buried; GPS showing Latitude & Longitude; and Source.

"We can use all of the above information in order to make a more complete data base," Gravlee said. "I have used 'Owen's Revolutionary Soldiers in Alabama' as well as the DAR book and other sources. Please have them to forward this information via email for the present time."

Send your information to Gene Gravlee, 185 Grey Horse Lane, Sumiton, AL 35148, call him at 205-648-2143 or e-mail him at genegravlee@worldnet.att.net.

Hoyt Smith can be contacted by writing him at 2685 Ready Section Road, Toney, AL 35773-3985 or by calling him at 256-420-3985.

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