



SAR Alabama



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, I want to thank our Alabama compatriots for placing their trust in me as their president for 2023-2024. I look forward to meeting with all chapters throughout the year as well as pursuing the goals and objectives of this fine organization.

It is critical to always remember why we exist. And, it is because of our grandparents! We do what we do for them! We honor their memory and the country they created. We educate our fellow citizens about what they did and how they did it. And finally, we preserve their records and artifacts. We are a patriotic, educational and historical organization that is dedicated to spreading all of the news (good or bad) about the American Revolution, our founding, the challenges of that era and the people who accomplished the seemingly impossible so that we can now be called Americans.

Pursuing these patriotic, educational and historical goals and objectives is challenging, but is also something that we do very well. However, our Society has some major challenges that simply have to be fixed. The Alabama State Society has lost a significant percentage of our membership over the last number of years. I am asking each chapter to renew their efforts at

See MESSAGE, Page 2

Inside this issue:

ALSSAR already making plans for 2027 Congress	2
In Memory... Douglas Evan Burdette	4
Chapters need to work with DAR for new members	7
Chapter launches effort to recognize patriots	8

Jim Griffith installed as new president at ALSSAR convention in February



—Photo by Janice Jennings

ALSSAR president Jim Griffith and wife Mary at convention.

The Alabama Society held its annual state convention on Feb. 24-25 in Hoover at the Embassy Suites. Attendance for the annual meeting increased by 5 percent over the 2022 meeting.

The meeting concluded with the installation of new officers, followed by ALSAR president Jim Griffith's comments to the gathering after his selection as the organization's 73rd president. If you did not attend this year's convention, please plan on attending our next convention in February 2024 and/or our upcoming Board of Managers meeting at American Village on May 6.

The business meeting was a great success, which started and ended on time. We reviewed the online membership-auto dues payment and the utility of paying for attendance at the convention and BOM. Overall, we had a successful launch. Compatriot Jim Maples reviewed the updated version of the ALSAR.org website. Hats off to Jim for a fantastic job!!!

Additionally, we reviewed the implementation of the DAR Finders Program. President General Bruce Pickette visited the Cheaha chapter meeting in October and inducted three

See AWARDS, Page 3

ALSSAR unveils Washington war tent replica

The Alabama Society is now in possession of a full-scale replica of the George Washington War Tent, a replica of the original tent now on display at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

This is the tent that traveled with George Washington throughout the Revolution. Gen. Washington slept in this tent, met with his War Council and basically ran the Revolution from this artifact.

Now, we have the opportunity to greatly enhance our programs around the



—Photo by Janice Jennings

ALSSAR compatriots assemble the George Washington War Tent replica at the American Village.

See TENT, Page 5

ALSSAR planning with district for Congress 2027

As you may know, the SAR is divided into districts. Alabama is part of the Southern District, along with Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Southern District has been awarded the right to host the 2027 NSSAR Congress with current plans to hold the event in New Orleans.

When President Griffith asked me to accept the role as the Alabama Congress Committee co-chairman, I had assumed that at this point we would just be working on the “getting to know you” part of building a nucleus of key state volunteers for an event that reaches across four state societies. Well, we have done some of that and then some.

The 2027 Congress Planning Committee is already at work with the NSSAR Congress Planning Committee with a few Zoom calls under our belt and three days of site visits at hotels and other venues in New Orleans during the week of March 19.

Led by Paul Callanan, chairman of the NSSAR Congress Planning Committee, we visited four hotels who responded to our RFP. In addition to Chairman Callanan and his wife Keitha, those present for the visit include past PG Davis Wright from the National Society, Louisiana Society representative Roger Villere of New Orleans, Southern District VPG Bradley Hayes, LASAR president Jeff Nolen and myself to represent the Alabama Society.

We conducted site visits at the Sheraton and Marriott on Canal Street as well as the Hilton Riverside and The Roosevelt.

All four of these hotels have the ability to accommodate

the unique requirements of an NSSAR Congress with the right availability of hotel rooms, meeting space and ballrooms. It really is almost an embarrassment of riches situation in that any of these hotels could be the right decision. We have had one call to discuss options with one more scheduled to reach a final decision before the end of April.

We will sort out the finer details of the conditions of each hotel's food and beverage contract while weighing the pros and cons of location and adjacency and layout of meeting and ball rooms.

With this key detail locked in so far out, I can only imagine that I will be updating our society on even more details and requirements sooner rather than later.

The 2027 Congress is unique in that no combined district has ever hosted a Congress and the success of this event will be a reflection on all four of the societies in our district. It will also be a proof of concept of allowing smaller societies to come together as a district to host a future Congress.

If you have ever been to Leadership in Louisville or to a NSSAR Congress, you will find that the compatriots from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana are usually our buddies, so it is not that much of a stretch for us to come together to make this happen.

In the coming days, weeks, months and years, we may be calling on you to do your part for our Society. I hope that I can count on every compatriot in Alabama to do their part, however large or small, to make this event a success.

—Eric Alford

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

retaining their membership, to renew their efforts at reinstating their membership and renew their efforts at recruiting new members.

The real challenge is that as we lose members, our goals and objectives do not change. It simply means that we have to accomplish the same amount with fewer resources and less money. So please take the steps that you can take to retain our existing membership, reinstate those who have failed to pay their dues in recent years and recruit new members. I believe it is easily doable for each of our members to recruit a single individual throughout the year. Maybe it is a son-in-law or a brother-in-law, or your pastor, cousin or someone else.

Regardless, there are huge numbers of people around the country that qualify to be members of SAR and don't realize it. Let's solve this problem in

Alabama.

In addition to focusing on reestablishing ourselves as a growing society, we will be focusing on the creation of a new educational effort focused on the George Washington War Tent. Michael Martin is working closely with Mark Hubbs, Martin Brady and Bob Anderson in defining programs associated with this incredible resource. In addition, we have already started participating in the preparation for the SAR Congress in 2027. It is estimated that many future Congresses will require the combined efforts of numerous states or an entire district so we have the opportunity to set the example on how best to make a multi-state effort work. Eric Alford is heading up Alabama's efforts for the 2027 Congress and has been working hard with other compatriots throughout the Southern District as well as National SAR to make this successful.

Please plan to join us on May 6 for

our spring Board of Managers' meeting at the American Village starting at 10 a.m. Our state Society cannot be successful unless our chapters are successful. And our state Society cannot be successful if our chapters do not participate. So please plan to attend. The more people we have in attendance, the better the meeting will be. Your opinions are desired and your impact is needed. And your state Society is willing to help with challenges you face at the chapter level. So please know that your state Society desires a bi-directional relationship with all of the chapters and all people within those chapters.

This is going to be an exciting year of growth, so please help us. Please participate, please engage with your state Society and let's make a difference in Alabama. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve in this position.

—Jim Griffith



—Photo by Janice Jennings

The 2023-24 officers are, from left: chaplain Buddy Irving, treasurer Scott Martin, chancellor Jay Maples, recording secretary Paul Petznick, president Jim Griffith, secretary Benny Hannah, historian Mark Hubbs, vice president Michael Martin and registrar Ron Bearden. Not pictured are genealogist Earl Gillian and sergeant-at-arms Joe Barker.

Awards

(Continued from Page 1)

new members and awarded Janice Serviss Tidwell the Martha Washington Medal for her genealogy work, assisting her brothers, Joe Serviss and Richard Serviss, her son Jonathan Tidwell and sons Emory and grandson James, who are members of the Richard Henry Lee chapter.

Our youth contest and banquet did not disappoint. We have an amazing slate of winners which should contend for top awards at Congress this summer in Orlando, Fla. All three competitors in the Rumbaugh Oration Contest were outstanding. A large number of our participants were homeschooled or attended private schools.

Our evening speaker was our own Bill Stone, a former ALSAR president and trustee, Germany Society president and trustee and 2019-2021 NSSAR Historian General. Bill spoke on the completion of the SAR Solid Light Plan for the development and buildout of the SAR National Museum. Compatriot Stone reviewed the current status of the buildout and what is planned for the near future. (The following link provides a great overview: <https://www.sar.org/nssar-education-center-and-museum/>)

We were blessed with a great number of guests in attendance for our evening banquet and the installation of our incoming officers. Treasurer General Darryl Addington, M.D., Library General J. Fred Olive III, Southern District Vice-President Bradley T. Hayes, Alabama DAR Regent Patrice Donnelly, Alabama Children of the American Revolution state president Thomas Barton and his mother Ashley Barton, along with various state presidents.

The table decorations and the silent auction were outstanding, a big thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary. The Society recognized

those who have made significant contribution to the success of the Alabama Society this year. Medals and Awards Chairman Jim Maples did an excellent job conducting. The society has so many dedicated compatriots who give their time and resources to our society.

Distinguished Service Certificates were awarded in recognition of dedicated service as officers of the Alabama Society during 2022-2023 to James K. Griffith Jr., vice president, Tennessee Valley; Eric D. Alford, secretary, Gen. John Archer Elmore; D. Michael Martin Jr., recording secretary, Cahaba-Coosa; John B. Van Zandt, treasurer, Gen. Galvez; Ronald A. Bearden, registrar, Little River; Earl Gillian Jr., genealogist, Gen. John Archer Elmore; Jay G. Maples, chancellor, Tennessee Valley; Robert D. England, historian, Shoals Area; John H. Killian, chaplain; Birmingham; Joseph D. Barker, sergeant-at-arms, Gen. John Archer Elmore; and Edmon H. McKinley, ALSSAR national trustee, Gen. Galvez.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the executive committee of David M. Jones (Black Warrior River), Paul Petznick (Birmingham) and Jeremy Ward (Gen. John Archer Elmore).

Several awards were presented to chapters and compatriots following their recruiting efforts over the last year:

- The ALSSAR member with the largest number of first line sponsorships of new members approved in 2022 — Ronald Allen Bearden (18).
- The ALSSAR member with the largest number of new supplemental applications approved in 2022 — Roger Harold Whitesides Jr. (8).

See AWARDS, Page 4

In Memory...

Douglas Evan Burdette

DOUGLAS EVAN BURDETTE, a compatriot in the Tennessee Valley chapter, passed away on Feb. 7. He was 68.

Burdette, born in Memphis, Tenn., is the son of Lewis Hall Burdette and Annette Norment Burdette, both of whom preceded him in death, as well as his older sister Beverly and younger brother Malcolm.

A longtime resident of Huntsville, Burdette's work life began as a paramedic with HEMSI Ambulance Service before serving as a police officer and instructor with the Huntsville Police Department.

He earned an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and a dual Masters in aerospace and systems engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He enjoyed a 31-year career as an aerospace engineer with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command before retiring in 2016.

After retirement, he worked for Radiance Technologies for three years as a consultant.

Burdette enjoyed a full, rich life with varied interests, which included Civil War reenacting and performing as a percussion-

ist with the Huntsville Concert Band and Olde Towne Brass. His love for woodworking and music led him to reproduce Civil War Era drums, with one on display in the Atlanta Historical Museum. He was also an active member of the Madison Optimist Club.

Nowhere was his kind heart and generous spirit more evident than in his volunteer efforts at St. Paul United Methodist Church, where he served as the lay leader, liturgist and on the administrative council. He played a pivotal role in the success of the church's food pantry outreach ministry. His servant's heart transcended throughout his professional and personal life.

Burdette is survived by his wife of more than 32 years, Delana Smith Burdette; sisters, Patsy Wear and Pamela Asa (Kevin); brother-in-law, James Smith (Cheryl); nephews and nieces, Jason Wear, Chris Asa, Michael Asa, Brian Asa, Kate Springer, and Lauren Smith.

Services were held on Feb. 11, with interment following at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Awards

(Continued from Page 3)

- The ALSSAR chapter with the largest number of new members approved in 2022 — Tennessee Valley (17).

- The ALSSAR chapter with the largest percentage of retained membership in 2022 — Birmingham (100 percent).

- The ALSSAR chapter with the largest percentage of new members approved in 2022 — Gen. Galvez (16 new members, a 23.88 percent increase).

- The ALSSAR chapter with the largest number of supplemental applications approved in 2022 — Tennessee Valley (21)

Other awards presented include:

- SAR Martha Washington Medal (doesn't have to be DAR member). Presented to a lady in recognition of outstanding service to the Alabama Society — Kay Anderson, Janice Jennings and Carol Irving.

- SAR Medal of Appreciation (DAR member): Presented only to a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in good standing, in recognition of and in appreciation for outstanding services rendered to the Alabama Society — Victoria Brady, Patrice Donnelly.

- SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal: This is the highest lady's medal which may be awarded for service to the SAR. It recognizes ladies for unselfish devotion, tireless efforts and assistance to the Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The medal depicts Sybil Luding-

ton riding a galloping horse commemorating her heroic ride of April 26, 1777 to warn of the approach of British forces and symbolizes the contribution of the many women who aided in the struggle for American independence — Sally Daniel.

- SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal: Awarded in recognition of noteworthy services to the community — Thomas Barton.

- Bronze Color Guard Medal: Awarded for Color Guard Service to the ALSSAR — Scott A. Martin, Donis R. Wolfe Sr.

- Silver Color Guard Medal: Awarded for Color Guard Service to the ALSSAR. (There are specific guidelines for points which must be earned before receiving this medal and this medal must be approved at the National Society level) — Cade M. McCool.

- Silver Roger Sherman Medal: This medal is awarded to a compatriot in recognition of, and in appreciation of, outstanding services rendered to a State Society — Edmon McKinley, Benny H. Hannah Jr. (oak leaf), J Fred Olive III (oak leaf), Jay Maples (oak leaf).

- Meritorious Service Medal: This medal is awarded in recognition of faithful and meritorious service to the Alabama Society — Martin P. Brady, Randal Scot Jennings.

- SAR State Medal of Distinguished Service: The incumbent State President may present only one State Medal of Distinguished Service at the annual meeting to

a compatriot in recognition for that compatriot's conspicuous service to the state society and to the president — David Michael Martin Jr.

- SAR Patriot Medal: This is the highest medal that may be presented to a compatriot by a State Society. It represents long, faithful and outstanding service at the state and/or chapter level — William Kirkland and John Van Zandt.

Southern District Vice-President General Bradley T. Hayes did an excellent job of installing this year's incoming officers: James K. Griffith Jr., president; D. Michael Martin Jr., vice president; Benny H. Hannah, secretary; Paul Petznick, recording secretary; Scott Martin, treasurer; Ronald A. Bearden, registrar; Earl Gillian Jr., genealogist; Jay G. Maples, chancellor; Mark Hubbs, historian; John H. Killian, chaplain; and Joseph D. Barker, sergeant-at-arms.

Outgoing president Daniel was honored to present the awards, then proceeded to close his term with his final remarks and thanked everyone for their support today and in tomorrow. Jim Griffith then addressed the society with his goals for the upcoming year.

A special thank you goes out to Jim Maples for managing the awards, Ron Bearden on audio and Michael Martin for his technical support. The Embassy Suites did a great job with the facilities and the meals.

—Bill Daniel



—Photo by Janice Jennings

Petznick receives GWEF pin
Dr. Paul Petznick of the Birmingham chapter receives his George Washington Endowment Fund pin and certificate from GWEF Fundraising chairman Jim Maples, second from right, and GWEF Board chairman Edmon McKinley, far left, as ALSSAR vice-president Jim Griffith, far right, looks on at state convention in February. Petznick also accepted a GWEF certificate and pin for his son, Gaston Petznick.

Tent

(Continued from Page 1)

state through the use of this replica.

The tent was donated to us by Nathan Taylor from Orlando, Fla. He happens to be my brother-in-law and wanted to do something to enhance the teaching of the American Revolution. So, he made this tent and gave it to us.

We have set up the tent, will be making a few physical modifications and defining a series of education programs which can be offered to individuals of any age group.

Michael Martin is chairing a committee consisting of Mark Hubbs, Martin Brady and Bob Anderson. This committee is tasked with identifying what additional items will be required in order to offer the highest quality education programs.

That list of items will likely include flags, flag poles, an army cot from the American Revolution era, a foldable desk where Gen. Washington will work, retractable banner signs and many copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Preliminary plans would involve the participation of the Color Guard who would be responsible for guarding Gen. Washington and the tent as well as potential participation from the CAR and DAR, who would add to the programs.

The possibilities are endless with this resource and I am thankful to Michael Martin and his committee for what they are doing to make this dream a reality.

The American Village has already committed to utilizing the tent on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The National Society has also expressed an interest in the tent.

I am thankful to Nathan Taylor for providing this incredible resource to the Alabama Society. More information and additional updates will be provided at the May Board of Managers meeting at the American Village. Please plan to attend on May 6 and help us to determine how this incredible resource might best be used in your community.

—Jim Griffith



—Photos by Janice Jennings

Patriot Award winners

ALSSAR president Bill Daniel presents the Patriot Award, the highest honor bestowed by the state society, to John Van Zandt, above, and William Kirkland, below.





—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha meeting discusses Revolutionary songs

Guest speaker Dr. Mike Ingram, above with chapter vice-president Eric Sloughfy, presented “Songs of the American Revolution” at the January meeting of the Cheaha chapter. A retired educator, Ingram has taught history in public school and college classrooms for 34 years.



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha hosts local author at March meeting

Local author Morris Penny, pictured with chapter president Bob Folsom, left, and vice-president Eric Sloughfy, presented “I am a Revolutionary” at the March meeting of the Cheaha chapter.



—Photo courtesy of Jason Williams

Richard Henry Lee guest speaker

Julian Singer, left, was the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Richard Henry Lee chapter meeting. Singer, the executive director of Historic Westville, a living history museum near Columbus, Ga., is pictured with chapter president Robert Harris, center, and chapter secretary Walker Jackson.



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Professor speaks on Washington

Dr. Dan Krejci, an associate professor at Jacksonville State, was the Cheaha chapter’s featured speaker in February and presented “The Greatness of George Washington.” Afterward, he received a challenge coin from chapter president Bob Folsom, left, and vice-president Eric Sloughfy.



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

Gen. Galvez chapter president Stephen Sexton presents Mike Bunn with a certificate, above, inducts Richard Lee Brown into the chapter, below, at March meeting.



Gen. Galvez chapter inducts compatriot at monthly meeting

The Gen. Galvez chapter held its March meeting at Kraver's restaurant in Daphne with 26 members in attendance.

Chapter president Stephen Sexton opened the meeting and welcomed everyone before vice-president Jim Corum introduced guest speaker Mike Bunn.

Bunn gave an informative talk on "The Americanization of the Gulf Coast." The Florida West Coast has been occupied by Native Americans, Spain, France, Spain again, Britain, Spain and Britain again and finally America.

Mr. Bunn received the SAR Certificate of Appreciation for a very informative presentation.

Next, compatriot Larry Liles introduced our chapter Eagle Scout Essay winner, Cecilia Archer. She placed second in the SAR state competition, quite an honor on one's first effort. She was awarded the SAR Eagle Scout medal, patch, certificate and a scholarship check.

Sexton inducted new member, Richard Lee Brown, into the SAR. Compatriot Brown told everyone about his family's Revolutionary War ancestors.

Sexton told the members about the chapter earning a state award at the annual ALSSAR convention for the most new members.

Also, the board of directors approved compatriot Hollis Smith as Veterans Committee chairman. All compatriots are encouraged to visit, assist and help veterans in every way possible and to report any veteran activities by the chapter to Smith. These are the true guardians of our liberties and freedoms.

Compatriot John Van Zandt reported a dire need for a Mobile County ROTC volunteer. The chapter recognizes and awards a medal to an outstanding cadet at each ROTC unit in college and high school.

—Mike Glass

Chapters need to work with DAR to find new compatriots

The calendar year 2022 was not a good year for membership retention.

For the first time that I can recall, our membership actually dropped below 1,000 members briefly before quickly jumping above that mark by a few compatriots.

In August of 2022, the ALSSAR initiated an effort to encourage the ALSDAR to assist us in recruiting new members. I want to encourage the ALSSAR chapters to contact the DAR chapter nearest you and remind them of the awards program for recruiting members into the ALSSAR.

The key to this program is that the DAR Finder Form must be included in the packet when submitted to the state registrar.

Compatriots Ron Bearden and David Jones are tracking the forms after new applications are approved at national.

DAR members can earn the Martha Washington Medal, the Medal of Appreciation and the Lady of Liberty Medal for recruiting three, six and nine new members respectively.

Past recruitments do not count unless a DAR Finder Form was submitted.

This joint effort can benefit the Alabama Society as well as the DAR member and the chapter can add this to the annual Americanism Report. Let's build a stronger bond between the Alabama Society's DAR and SAR.

—David Jones

Cahaba-Coosa chapter installs new officers for 2023

The Cahaba-Coosa chapter held their annual Christmas banquet and chapter meeting on Dec. 9, 2022, installing their new officers for 2023 at the meeting.

The dinner and meeting were held at the American Village in Montevallo. After dinner and prior to the business meeting, the attendees enjoyed a presentation on colonial dancing that included audience participation.

After dinner the new officers were

installed, including Joel Fortson, president; Bill Carter, vice-president; Mike Little, secretary; Scott Martin, treasurer; Harry Sessamen, registrar; Michael Martin, sergeant-at-arms; Bruce Kilgore, chaplain; Bill Daniel, historian; and Jim Phillips, genealogist.

The chapter also recognized members with the following:

- 12 service medals / Oak Leaf Clusters for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service

- 3 chapter service medals
- 4 Color Guard medals
- 3 ALSSAR Life Membership certificates
- 1 Lafayette Service Award / 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
- 3 Roger Sherman Medals
- 1 Sergeant-At-Arms sabre with certificate of appreciation and coin
- 1 Meritorious Service chapter medal
- 2 Lydia Darragh Medals

Chapter launches project to honor Revolutionary War vets

The Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter started a project in conjunction with the American Village to honor Revolutionary War veterans buried in Alabama by submitting their information to the National Veterans Shrine and Register of Honor at the American Village. So far we have made approximately 350 submissions.

Each Revolutionary War veteran buried in Alabama has a special story to tell and our goal is to share that story. Our goal for each veteran is to provide more than just his birth and death dates and places. We strive to give details about the Revolutionary War service for each veteran and provide information of where they lived after the war and when they came to Alabama.

Space restrictions (1500 spaces/characters maximum) in the American Village database limit the quantity of information we can submit, and sometimes we struggle to condense information from pension records. And for some veterans, we find precious little information about their service or lives.

Through trial and error we have found ways to maximize the amount of information we can submit for each veteran, and in addition to their biographies, we provide illustrations where they served (NC Militia, for example), burial information and battles they participated in.

Below are two submissions made for Revolutionary War veterans to give you an idea of the information we provide. If you want to see how this information looks in the American Village database, you can go to that database and run a search for these two veterans. Also, google "Silas Fletcher" Conecuh County AL Revolutionary War or "James Porter" Dallas County AL Revolutionary War and you should find listings titled "Veteran Honoree Detail" which will take you to each of those submissions.

Silas Fletcher, Conecuh County, Alabama
Born 1762 Middlesex County, MA
Died 1837 Conecuh County, Alabama

Per his pension statement, Silas Fletcher first entered service in the Fall of 1779 from VT and became one of the Green Mountain Boys. He served for 9 months under Captain Parmela Allen and Colonel Ebenezer Allen. Pay records date this service from 1 Feb 1780 to 1 Dec 1780. In the summer of 1781 he went to Castleton, VT and was stationed at that fort for 1 month. Payroll records date this service as Oct 1781 under Capt. Lemuel Hyde, Col. Warren's 15th VT Militia Regiment. He last appears on a 1782 payroll of Capt Israel Hurlburts Company of Militia in Col. Thomas Lee's

Regiment on an expedition to the Northward under the immediate command of Maj Gideon Brownson. His service has been approved by DAR and SAR. After the war he moved to LA where he was on the 1810 and 1820 census records. He was in New York City in 1831 when he applied for his pension. In 1833 he moved to Indian Key, Monroe Co, FL where he lived until 1836. He died 25 May 1837 in Conecuh Co, AL.

James Porter, Dallas County, Alabama
Born 1760 Rowan County, NC
Died 1840 Dallas County, AL
Buried in Pea Ridge Cemetery, Burnsville, Dallas County, AL

James Porter was a Sergeant under Captain William Armstrong and Col. Francis Locke in the NC Militia, and had been a Sergeant for 12 months prior to the Battle of Ramsour's Mill (20 Jun 1780) where he received a wound by a Bullet in his hip of the left side which entered opposite the ilium of the left side wounded the sacrum and went out on the back part of the ilium of the right side. This incapacitated him from further military service and disabled him for life. James Porter lived in Rowan Co, NC when he entered service. After the war he lived in Iredell Co, NC until he moved to Dallas Co, AL in 1823. He lived in Dallas Co, AL the remainder of his life.

The master list that we received to start this project with contains about 850 Revolutionary War veterans. However a number of those are not buried in Alabama and a number have unproven service. In addition there are a few duplicates on the list, and a few that simply did not serve in the Revolutionary War but were in the War of 1812 or gave other service after the Revolutionary War.

We have gone through almost 70 percent of the individuals on the list and are steadily working through the list. In addition we have identified in the DAR online records approximately 150 Revolutionary War veterans not on the list.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to honor your own patriot ancestor by submitting his information to the American Village Database. You can do this regardless of where he served, lived or is buried.

—Earl Gillian, Jr.
Project Chairman



—Photos by Janice Jennings

NSSAR President General Bruce Pickette, above, places a wreath to celebrate the “Battles of Mobile,” which included a musket salute fired by the ALSSAR Color Guard, below, at Mardi Gras Park on March 11.



ALSSAR joins with DAR to honor ‘Battles of Mobile’

The Gen. Galvez chapter honored its namesake on March 11 at Mardi Gras Park with a celebration to recognize the efforts of Gen. Bernardo do Galvez at the “Battles of Mobile.”

The ALSSAR joined forces with local chapters of the DAR to celebrate not one, but two Revolutionary War battles — the Battle of Fort Charlotte in 1780 and the Battle of Spanish Fort a few months later in 1781.

Along with a presentation of colors and a musket salute, NSSAR President General Bruce Pickette presented a wreath in recognition of the celebration, which was attended by SAR and DAR members from chapters in Alabama and Florida.

The Battle of Fort Charlotte was a two-week siege by Galvez against British fortifications guarding the port of Mobile, which was then in the British province of West Florida.

Galvez’s army sailed from New Orleans and landed near Fort Charlotte on Feb. 25, 1780. The outnumbered British garrison resisted stubbornly until Spanish bombardment breached the walls. Their capitulation secured the western shore of Mobile Bay and opened the way for Spanish operations against Pensacola.

In 1780, Galvez ordered the construction of a blockhouse armed with two cannon on the bluffs above the bay at what is now Spanish Fort.

The Spanish fort had at one point a garrison of 200 men and was harassed on several occasions by Indians allied with the British under the command of Gen. John Campbell out of Pensacola. In January 1781, approximately 150 Spanish troops, according to one account, successfully defended the fort during a day-long battle against a British force of 100 regular and provincial troops and perhaps 300 to 500 Indians, reinforced by British warships.

**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 June 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.



—Photo courtesy of Michael Martin

Alabama Society Color Guard provides valuable teaching moments at Colonial Day

The ALSSAR Color Guard assisted the History Museum of Mobile at Colonial Day at Fort Conde/Charlotte on March 24, providing lessons on clothing, Von Steuben drills, weapons and much more as the Color Guard set up a Revolutionary War camp and concluded the day with a musket salute demonstration.