



SAR Alabama



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The second quarter of 2025 has been another remarkable period for the Alabama Society. It has been a time of growth, reflection and dedication to our mission of preserving the legacy of the American Revolution and honoring the patriots who secured our nation's independence. This report outlines the key activities, achievements, and challenges faced during the months of April, May and June.

Membership Growth

During the second quarter, ALSSAR experienced a steady increase in membership. As of June 6, 2025, our society welcomed 43 new members and 16 reinstatements, bringing our total membership count to 1,062. During the same period last year, we had 29 new members and 10 reinstatements. We also have several more potential members in the pipeline this year. This growth reflects the success of our targeted recruitment strategies and the enhancement of our outreach efforts.

Youth Outreach

Our focus on engaging young people has continued to yield positive results. Through educational programs and partnerships with more schools across Alabama, we have worked with several young members who have expressed

See MESSAGE, Page 2



ALSSAR flag unveiled at spring BOM meeting

At the annual ALSSAR business meeting in February, a motion was made to create a state SAR flag. A committee was formed and met several times to discuss a flag that truly represents the Alabama Society.

After agreeing to a general idea, the committee began editing and came up with this design. Compatriot Joseph Barker placed an order so that it could be presented at the spring Board of Managers' meeting on May 3.

The SAR flag committee members are chairman David Jones, Benny Hannah, Jim Maples, Joseph Barker, Jack Tribble, Randal Jennings and Cade McCool.

Many thanks to Jack Tribble and Cade McCool for the art and graphics of the flag.

At the spring meeting, the Board of Managers voted to open a window for all ALSSAR members to purchase an individual flag for \$40. The intent is to place new orders with the vendor at the beginning of each month after the initial deadline (of June 1), but the cost of each flag may go up with subsequent orders.

The goal is for each chapter to purchase a flag to have available when the state president visits a chapter. The Color Guard will also be carrying the flag.

Members can go to alssar.org or to www.zeffy.com/ticketing/alssar-flag to place an order and pay online directly to the state treasurer or contact Jones at djones36@aol.com or Barker at jbark151@yahoo.com.

Past ALSSAR president, Minuteman winner Jordan passes away

Former ALSSAR president Richard Jordan, this state's sixth recipient of the Minuteman Award, passed away on June 13 at the age of 92 in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Jordan, a Mississippi native, was past president of both the Alabama and Mississippi societies of the Sons of the American Revolution and championed scholarship awards for high school seniors in both states.

Though he spent much of his life traveling the world, he loved everything about his hometown of Columbia, Miss. — the brick streets, the white squirrels in his neighborhood and the fact that everyone knew everyone's name.

As quarterback for the Columbia Wildcats, his team won every game — except the three he missed due to injury. His backup, future Ole Miss great Eagle Day, lost each of those three. Dick would often quip, with a wry smile, "Eagle got a street named after him; I got nothing."

After graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi, Jordan entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in 1955. He retired in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel after 22 years

See JORDAN, Page 4

Inside this issue:

Donate to ALSSAR Endowment Fund	3
Please help the ALSSAR update their e-mail list	4
Chapter honors anniversary of Lexington, Concord	5
President Trump recognizes Lexington, Concord	7

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

interest in learning more about their patriotic lineage. We have two chapters that are working with CAR senior leadership and the local DAR chapter to revive two non-active CAR chapters. We have also started the process of each SAR chapter locating a CAR chapter and their DAR sponsor in their area to start providing additional leadership and support.

Early reviews of our Americanism reports seem to show increased numbers of participants in our poster, brochure and JROTC programs. We are beginning to see where scholarships awarded to outstanding students have fostered deeper connections with the community. This is an area where we could and should get more schools and communities involved. Our youth is our future, so please consider putting as much effort into this area as possible.

Commemoration Ceremonies

In line with our mission, ALSSAR held several commemorative events to honor the sacrifices of Revolutionary War patriots. Noteworthy among these was the Memorial Day ceremony in Montgomery and Huntsville, where members paid tribute to fallen heroes and highlighted the enduring values of liberty and freedom. Our Color Guard made a big splash on June 4 as they were first in line to welcome the Wiregrass Honor flight at the Birmingham Airport. Our partners at American Village have really kept our color guard busy with programs that engage students in hands-on learning activities that included reenactments, lectures and interactive displays. Feedback from teachers and participants underscored the program's effectiveness in making history tangible and engaging. We have spent many hours with several DAR chapters planning summer and fall grave marking ceremonies. Many of these ceremonies will be supporting the America 250 agenda. This summer and fall is expected to be a record year for us.

Educational Programs

The second quarter saw an expansion of our educational initiatives. Visit our national web site (www.sar.org) to choose classes that will help you become a better volunteer. A series of videos have been prepared to train all our national, state and chapter officers in their new roles or positions, learn how to be better organized and be more efficient. We now have our own youth protection training, which is a requirement for our members who are officers or have potential contact with students, Scouts and members of youth groups.

Community Service

Members of ALSSAR actively contributed to their local communities by participating in various service projects. These included volunteer efforts at historical sites, cleaning and maintaining graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and hosting fundraisers to support preservation initiatives. We participated this year in a nationwide historic marker cleaning program through the Pomeroy foundation.

Media Presence

ALSSAR garnered media attention this quarter with coverage of our Memorial Day events and the Wiregrass Honor Flight. These events aired on local television and articles in state newspapers and magazines. Other events included grave markings, Lafayette events and interactions with CAR and the

American Village. The increased visibility has enhanced public recognition of our society's work and mission.

Social Media Engagement

Our social media platforms continue to attract followers and engagement. Posts highlighting our events, member stories and historical facts have increased our audience. It has been great to see more and more chapters posting their events. This growth underscores the importance of digital outreach in connecting with modern audiences. We still need to get additional chapter involvement.

Fundraising Efforts

Our newly appointed state flag committee accomplished two goals during this period. First, they came up with a beautiful new state SAR flag design for our color guard and chapters. Second, thru their flag sales, they created over \$1000 in profit for our society treasury. These funds will be allocated to various initiatives, including educational programs, historical preservation and operational costs. Congratulations to David Jones, Joe Barker, Cade McCool, Jack Tribble, Travis Parker, Jim Maples and Randal Jennings.

Budget and Expenditure

A detailed financial report has been shared with the board members at our annual convention in February and later approved during our spring BOM meeting in May. We are monitoring our expenditures and ensuring transparency in all transactions with focus on our cost associated with our annual convention in 2026.

Challenges

While our achievements have been significant, we faced challenges in engaging underrepresented communities and maintaining consistent volunteer participation for projects. These challenges present opportunities for strategic planning and improvement. All our chapters need to be gearing up for our upcoming dues renewal season. Please ensure that all your rosters are up to date with verified contact information.

Opportunities

The upcoming third quarter offers opportunities for growth, including partnerships with DAR chapters across the state. I believe that our new DAR Finders program will be a significant improvement over our previous years and should jump start our membership as we move into America 250 year of celebration.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the third quarter of 2025, ALSSAR remains committed to its mission and values. Plans are under way for major events, including Constitution Day celebrations, grave markings and additional educational workshops (Americanism, Stark, and Dues preparation- all on zoom). Our collective efforts will continue to honor the revolutionary spirit and inspire generations to cherish our nation's legacy.

Conclusion

The second quarter of 2025 has been a testament to the dedication and passion of ALSSAR members. Through community engagement, education and commemoration, we have upheld the enduring legacy of the American Revolution. With continued support and collaboration, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones in the months ahead.

—Benny Hannah

Consider a contribution to the ALSSAR Endowment Fund

In 2015 the Alabama Society established an endowment with the Community Foundation of South Alabama for the purpose of raising funds for the ALSSAR youth programs. Over the years the endowment has grown tremendously from its beginning. The best way for the endowment to continue this upward trend is for more donations to be made.

The easiest way for members or Chapters to donate (tax deductible) is through the society website at www.alssar.org. Click on the "more" tab and scroll down to the endowment link. A letter from the committee chairman explains everything about the endowment and links to the Community Foundation of South Alabama's website to donate. If donating online with

a credit card or Pay Pal is not for you, there are sample letters to send by mail when writing a check.

If every Chapter would contribute to the endowment via memorials of members who pass, regardless of the amount, ever little bit helps. Donations are accepted by anyone and are not limited to members of the Sons of the American Revolution. If your business or corporate office is looking for tax deductible donations, please suggest the ALSSAR Endowment Fund. The Community Fund of South Alabama will send an official receipt to each individual or business that donates.

Please consider donating annually, monthly, memorials, or special occasions.

Proposed ALSSAR flag unveiled at spring BOM meeting

The proposed ALSSAR flag was unveiled at the spring Board of Managers meeting held on May 3 at the American Village.

The proposed flag was shown to members, featuring a unique design that incorporated elements of the Alabama state flag and the yellowhammer, the Alabama state bird. The organization had entertained bids from four vendors and chose the Anley Flag Co., which can produce flags at a cost of \$13 per flag.

BOM members settled on a cost of \$40 per flag, with proceeds donated to the ALSSAR annual meeting. Each of the 13 chapters can purchase a flag for \$30 each.

American Village CEO Alan Miller was on hand to express his appreciation to the ALSSAR for its continued support. Miller shared information about upcoming events that included the America 250 celebration and the 250th Armed Services celebration.

He also discussed the proposed completion date of mid-September for Independence Hall at the American Village.

ALSSAR delegates to the upcoming Congress were confirmed and approved.

At the meeting, Color Guard commander Joe Barker was awarded the Patriot Medal, while Southern District Vice President General John Fulwider presented past ALSSAR presidents Michael Martin and David Jones with the Southern District's Henry Knox Achievement Medal with Star. The Color Guard also received a certificate for their participation in the Fort Mitchell LaFayette Farewell Tour.



—Photo courtesy of Bennie Hannah

Southern District Vice-President General John Fulwider, representing past VPG David Billings, presented district Henry Knox Achievement Awards with Star to past ALSSAR presidents Michael Martin, left, and David Jones.

Members were informed of the efforts by the Etowah chapter to rebuild its membership. Chapter president Stephen Hooks mentioned in a recent meeting the struggling chapter was setting up a booth in a Gadsden festival held on the first Friday of every month in an effort to share information about the SAR and to recruit potential new members.

The chapter would welcome any help or

participation from members of other chapters.

Youth programs chairman David Jones stressed the importance of youth protection training and the need for course completion certificates that are mandatory for anyone working with youth-oriented events such as Boy Scout or ROTC awards.

The ALSSAR will hold its fall BOM meeting at American Village on Sept. 27.

Jordan

(Continued from Page 1)

of active duty. His military service earned him numerous citations, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star with "V" Device and two Oak Leaf Clusters, Vietnam Jump Wings and the Air Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters.

His military career included five tours of combat — four separate tours of Vietnam including his last where he was the only American embedded with South Vietnam forces. He was a jumper and was very proud of the fact most of the Army's parachutes or aerodynamic deceleration devices as the manufacturer called them were made and often packed in his hometown of Columbia.

His first tour was during the U.S. invasion of Dominican Republic in 1965. As company commander, he was first to jump. Unfortunately, his chute did not open. During the quick descent, he frantically reeled in his chute and continually wadded and threw the pilot chute upward so that it might catch air. Finally, just before he hit the ground, the chute partially deployed. He hit the ground with a thud and suffered momentary paralysis. He remembers thinking to himself he had to get up because he didn't want any of his kinfolk working at the parachute factory to get in trouble.

Early in his Army career, Jordan was assigned as an ROTC

instructor at the University of Texas. He loved teaching cadets and thrived in the academic setting. While stationed in Thailand, he earned a master's degree remotely from the University of Southern California.

After retiring from the Army, he launched a second career in education spanning two decades and three continents, with teaching posts in San Antonio, Mobile, Nuremberg, Germany and Zama, Japan.

He also devoted himself to helping students and cadets secure financial aid through scholarships. As an ROTC instructor, he took great pride in seeing many of his cadets receive full scholarships to four-year universities.

He served as president of the Alabama Society in 1985 and was a recipient of the Minuteman Award in 1995. He was the oldest living recipient of the award from this state until his passing. He moved to Texas and transferred his membership in 2001, later settling in Mississippi.

Jordan is survived by his children: Rick Jordan (Tammy Theis) of New Orleans, La.; Edward Jordan of Washington, D.C.; and Jack Jordan of Austin, Texas. He is also survived by his stepchildren: Leta Williams of Rockwall, Texas; Windy Tumey (David) of Tampa, Fla.; and Kenneth Williams (Marlene) of Rockwall, Texas.

Services were held at First United Methodist Church in Columbia, Miss., on June 26.

Update your e-mail address with ALSSAR

I am trying to get the ALSSAR email list as current as possible. I have sent out several emails to Alabama Society members using MailChimp in the last few weeks.

If you are not receiving these emails, please send me your latest email address and I'll add you to the list.

Also, the ALSSAR website (alssar.org) has a "Members Only" section which requires a username and password.

The first time you access this page it will ask you to set up a username and password. Once you do that, I then have to go in and give you access. Unfortunately Godaddy (our web hosting service) doesn't let me know that someone has created a username and password so once you create your username and password click on "Contact Us" and let me know and I'll give you access.

Anytime you send a message through "Contact Us" it comes to my email so that is the best way to contact me.

—Jim Maples
Web Manager
jhmmaples@gmail.com



—Photo courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter learns about Revolutionary weapons

Mark Hubbs, pictured with Cheaha chapter vice president Ron Burson, left, and president Eric Sloughfy, right, presented a program on Revolutionary weapons at the chapter's April meeting.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Corum

Gen. Galvez chapter members help in the 250th celebration of the battles of Lexington and Concord in Foley.

Gen. Galvez chapter helps city of Foley recognize 250th anniversary of battles of Lexington and Concord

BY RUTH MAYO
Reporter
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FOLEY — On April 19, 1775, the American Revolution began when British forces marched and fired on American soldiers in Massachusetts cities Lexington and Concord.

250 years later, the City of Foley recognized and honored the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which led to America's separation from the British Empire. The commemorative event was held and attended by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) and curious or interested individuals not a part of the organizations.

As stated in a press release for the

event, the SAR, DAR and CAR are organizations of direct descendants of those who fought or supported the American Revolution. The release also stated that the City of Foley was an active supporter of this event as part of its "broader initiative to honor and teach American history."

Jim Corum, retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and author of several military history books, is the president of the General Galvez chapter of the SAR and was the main speaker for the event.

"Our job of our organization is not only to commemorate and honor but to educate the public about the American Revolution," Corum said.

He mentioned how other cities in Alabama were participating in the 250th anniversary, such as a reenactment of the

Battle of Lexington at the American Village in Montevallo. The General Galvez chapter has "about 100 members."

The event kicked off with a prayer from the Rev. Ryan Cramer from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Corum said the revolutionary armies were a "very religious group" and George Washington prayed before and after each military expenditure. So, the groups follow suit.

After the prayer, the SAR color guard lined up and marched toward the Veteran's Memorial flagpole at the Foley Centennial Park to raise a 13-star American flag. The color guard was in full Revolutionary War uniform or colonial wear, as were most of the DAR and CAR attendees.

See FOLEY, Page 6

Foley

(Continued from Page 5)

After that, the SAR marched around the Veteran's memorial before Corum read aloud the proclamation that was passed in the April 8 Foley City Council meeting.

"The cause of the war begins with the right of Americans to govern themselves," he read. "This right was first established in British North America when the colonists of the new Virginia Colony in 1619 convened a legislature, the Virginia House of Delegates, consisting of elected representatives to make laws for the colony."

He continued to read how, in 1774, the British Parliament implemented "Intolerable Acts" upon the Americans that essentially gave the British crown power to "abolish the colonial legislatures" and hold direct British rule on the Province of Massachusetts.

Corum explained in a historical presentation after the flag ceremony that the American's responded to these acts by holding their legislative session as planned and forming the Continental Congress, which, as the proclamation states, was composed of representatives from 12 of the 13 colonies. The Continental Congress formed a plan of response to this "assault on American freedoms."

In the presentation, Corum quoted Levi Preston, an American soldier who was interviewed several decades after the war, on why he fought for America.

Corum said it wasn't a reaction to earlier acts such as the Stamp Act or the Tea Act, which prompted the Boston Tea Party and similar revolts, and it wasn't for liberties inspired by the writings of John Locke and other revolutionary figures. It was because the British were trying to take away something they had previously given to the Americans; their freedom to govern themselves.

Corum quoted Preston, saying, "Well, we'd always governed ourselves and we meant to keep on governing ourselves. The British meant to stop us and we weren't going to let them."

The proclamation reads, "It must be remembered that the citizen soldiers who first confronted the army of the world's most powerful empire were not a mob, nor a dissident group, nor a political faction — but men who served as sol-



—Photo courtesy of Jim Corum

SAR members raise the 13-star American flag to recognize the anniversary at Foley Centennial Park.

diers under the authority of their own elected government."

Corum said many of the officials or leaders to the early American army groups had warfare experience from the Seven Years War, which was fought from 1756 to 1763, giving some of them more of an advantage over the British troops.

Also in the presentation, Corum gave a brief rundown on the British march through Lexington to Concord and the fights that ensued along the way there and back.

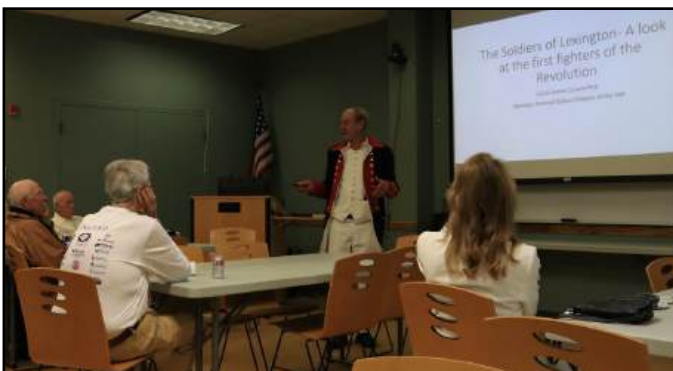
He also shared fun facts such as the common misrepresentation in Revolutionary War statues, by presenting the soldiers as young men with a full head of hair and wearing nothing but a light shirt.

He said the soldiers, especially the commanders, were mostly older, balding men, as all males "from 16 to 60" were forced to join the American Army. He said the soldiers at the Battle of Lexington would likely have been wearing their thick wool coats and not just an undershirt as the battle was held at dawn, which would make it comfortable conditions for layering in the Northeast.

Other fun facts he shared were about the other, lesser known, midnight riders of the beginning of the war. Outside of Paul Revere, Samuel Prescott and William Dawes among others rode to Concord from Boston to warn certain officials of the British march.

He also briefly mentioned women's roles in the war as laundresses and nurses who traveled along with the army groups throughout the war.

Corum said to keep an eye out for more upcoming events through the SAR, DAR or CAR as they celebrate the anniversaries of many American Revolution events 250 years later.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Corum

Gen. Galvez chapter member Jim Corum discusses the event at the Foley Public Library.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Two and a half centuries ago, a small band of minutemen answered the call of freedom in the legendary Battles of Lexington and Concord, an epic tale of American strength and the first major armed conflict of the Revolutionary War. We honor the memories, remember the sacrifices, and summon the courage of every hero of liberty who gallantly shed his blood for the cause of independence on April 19, 1775.

After years of intensifying frictions and escalating hostility between the British Crown and the American Colonies, all avenues to peace and diplomacy had been exhausted, and it became clear to the patriots that war was inevitable. Following the Boston Massacre, the oppressive Intolerable Acts, and the lasting grievance of taxation without representation, the colonists began organizing militias as a final recourse in defense of their right to self-government.

The British regime's reign of tyranny reached a breaking point when, in his fearless midnight ride from Boston, Massachusetts, Paul Revere announced the news that the Redcoats were marching to Concord, Massachusetts, to arrest Colonial leaders and seize American arms. By the time they reached Lexington at dawn, the British encountered 77 intrepid American minutemen, led by Captain John Parker, boldly standing their ground in defense of their independence. The surprised British fired a volley, mortally wounding eight American patriots — the very first American soldiers to lay down their lives for our emerging Nation.

The British ambush at Lexington became known as the “shot heard 'round the world,” prompting thousands of brave young men to leave behind their homes and livelihoods to fight for our freedom on the frontlines of the American Revolution — commencing the greatest fight for liberty in the history of the world.

Later that morning, the Redcoats arrived at Concord to find and set fire to patriot military supplies. At the sight of rising smoke from atop a lofty hill, the colonists believed the Redcoats were burning the town, provoking them to advance to the North Bridge. As Captain Isaac Davis, whose company stood at the front of the column, said of his soldiers gearing up to take on the Redcoats, “I haven't a man who is afraid to go.”

As 400 daring militiamen descended down Punkatasset Hill toward the North Bridge, the startled British opened fire, killing 49 Americans, including Captain Davis. “Fire, fellow soldiers, for God's sake, fire!” shouted Major John Buttrick of the Concord militia at the sound of the discharging muskets — sending the British running back to Boston in retreat in a resounding victory for Colonial forces. For the next 12 miles, the patriots relentlessly pursued the Redcoats, ambushing them from behind trees, walls, and other cover. As one British soldier is said to have recalled, the Americans “fought like bears, and I would as soon storm hell as fight them again.”

April 19, 1775, stands to this day as a seminal milestone in our Nation's righteous crusade for liberty and independence. On this day 250 years ago, with the fire of freedom blazing in their souls, an extraordinary army of American minutemen defeated one of the mightiest armies on the face of the earth and laid the foundation for America's ultimate triumph over tyranny.

Two and a half centuries later, their fortitude remains our inheritance, their resolve remains our birthright, and their unwavering loyalty to God and country remains the duty of every American patriot. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our Nation's independence next year, we honor the valiant men who fought in defense of their sacred right to self-government, we renew our pledge to restore our republic to all of its greatness and glory, and we commit to rebuilding a country and a culture that inspires pride in our past and faith in our future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2025, as a day in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

DONALD J. TRUMP



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Chapter hands out JROTC award
Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter compatriot Kevin Lawrence, at left, presented Emmanuel Peralta with the JROTC Bronze Medal Award at Stanhope Elmore High's JROTC annual awards ceremony at the school in Millbrook on April 2.

Approximately two weeks later, on April 17, Lawrence was joined by chapter compatriots Rick Wells and Mike Winstead for a similar presentation at Prattville High's JROTC awards ceremony. At that event, the recipient, Jacoby Sherman, was unable to attend.



—Photos courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Compatriot discusses Camden Battlefield at Richard Montgomery meeting

Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter compatriot Skip Dotherow, left in photo at left, was the featured speaker at the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter meeting with his presentation of the "Camden Burials."

—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Gen. Elmore chapter promotes poster contest

Gen. John Archer Elmore compatriots Joe Barker, Michael Araiza and Arnie Burris, along with DAR member Dana Araiza, spoke with Ivy Classical Academy in Prattville to promote the SAR poster competition.



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

Gen. John Archer Elmore compatriots team up with CAR members at Fort Toulouse

On Saturday, April 12, Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter compatriots Michael Araiza, William Araiza and Earl Gillian participated in the Isaac Ross chapter, Children of the American Revolution meeting at Fort Toulouse. Michael Araiza, above, gave a presentation of Fort Toulouse, Fort Jackson and Native American history.

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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Help spread the word about your chapter in the next newsletter

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



—Photo courtesy of Chuck Cartwright

ALSSAR reenacts Battle of Concord Bridge at American Village

Gen. John Archer Elmore compatriots Joe Barker, Michael Araiza and Gary Backus were among those participants in the reenactment of the Battle of Concord Bridge on its 250th anniversary, April 19, at American Village.