



SAR Alabama



Volume 36, Number 4

December, 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all as we welcome in 2023. We have made great strides with several initiatives over the last 10 months.

The Alabama Color Guard has been active — very active — with 54 engagements since Jan. 1, 2022.

Our Society has implemented the on-line dues payment system.

Benny Hannah has received approval of the first grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a Patriot Grave Marker in Alabama.

Earlier this year we initiated efforts to have a statewide public relations team. We are still in need on a representative from each chapter. We will hear more from our PR Team at our state meeting.

December was very active with officer installations across our society. It was my honor to install the following presidents:

- Dec. 9 — Richard Henry Lee Chapter — Robert Harris
- Dec 9 — Cahaba Coosa Chapter — Joel Fortson
- Dec 11 — Shoals Area Chapter — Robert W. Stanford
- Dec 13 — Gen. John Archer Elmore Chapter — Ron Dains
- Dec 14 — Gen. Richard Montgomery Chapter — Mack Hataway

I am looking forward to attending the Jan. 21 meeting of the Gen. Galvez chapter for their officer installation.

See MESSAGE, Page 2

ALSSAR convention set for Feb. 24-25

The annual ALSSAR convention will be held on Feb. 24-25, 2023 at the Hoover Embassy Suites, site of the 2022 convention.

The convention kicks off on Friday afternoon with a genealogy workshop presented by Ron Bearden from 1-3 p.m., followed by another hour-

long presentation on “DNA Basics” presented by ALSAR president Bill Daniel and ALSSAR genealogist Earl Gillian at 3:15 p.m. The first day concludes with the annual reception from 6:30-8 p.m.

On Saturday, the business meeting will start at 8:30 a.m.

and is scheduled to wrap up at 11 a.m. in time for the Rumbaugh Orations contest. At noon, the annual youth awards luncheon will recognize the winner of the other youth awards presented by the ALSSAR.

See CONVENTION, Page 7

Tennessee Valley sets grave marking goal



—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

Color Guard fires volley at ceremony for Robert Davie.

During the latter part of 2021, the Tennessee Valley chapter was searching for a way to participate in the “America 250” program. One program started surfacing to the top.

After a long absence of the practice, our chapter had started back at locating, cleaning and repairing cemeteries where our Revolutionary War patriots were buried. Once the cemetery and the patriot grave sites were cleared, a dignified service was conducted with descendants, neighbors, color guard and SAR Officers.

See GOAL, Page 6

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Past president Marvin Vickers passes away

Former ALSSAR and Wiregrass chapter president Marvin Vickers passed away on Oct. 19 at the age of 80.

Vickers spent more than 30 years of his life as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and later became the executive director of Blue Lake Methodist Assem-

bly before getting involved in the Sons of the American Revolution, first at the chapter level and later as the ALSSAR president in 2013-14.

Services were held on Oct. 24 at the Chapel of Dillard Funeral Home in Troy with the Rev. Tonya Elmore and Rev.

David Morris officiating. Interment followed in Green Hills Memorial Park in Troy.

Marvin is survived by his brother Perry (Elizabeth) Vickers, his sister Claire (Malon) Murphy and his sister-in-law

See VICKERS, Page 4

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

Mark your calendars, the Alabama Society Annual Business Meeting and Convention is scheduled for the 24th (Friday) & 25th (Saturday) of February at the Embassy Suites in Hoover. Online registration is posted on the ALSSAR website (and on page 8 of this newsletter). Hotel discounts are available thru the first of February, 2023. <https://alssar.org/events>

Additionally, I want to thank Jim Maples who learned that the GoDaddy version of software supporting our old society webpages was no longer going to be supported after January 2023, he upgraded the ALSSAR website in short order.

Hats off to Jim. Thank you!!!

Our future is bright for 2023, as President General C. Bruce Pickette says....."Stay The Course!" I am grateful of your support and look forward to working with my fellow Compatriots throughout our Society.

Respectfully,

—Bill Daniel Jr.

P.S. Reach out and ask your father, your brother, your son(s) or grandson's to join us!



—Photo courtesy of Ron Dains

Christmas parade

The Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter's Liberty Bell float made its first appearance in Prattville's 2022 Christmas parade. Chapter members, along with spouses and children, represented our patriot ancestors who sacrificed much for our freedom to participate in such events. Along with adding a patriotic flair to the annual Christmas parade, chapter representatives tossed innumerable pieces of holiday candy to the esteemed citizens from around the Prattville area.

'Revolutionary War Rarities' charts the evolution of Christmas during the war

Revolutionary War Rarities published a Christmas Special in December. Christmas is a special holiday with tremendous history. This episode of Revolutionary War Rarities talks about the evolution of Christmas and how it was celebrated during the Revolutionary War. Would you believe that a Christian holiday had origins from Pagan traditions? Would you believe that Christmas was not a holiday celebrated by Children during the Revolutionary era? Would you believe that the first Congress worked on Christmas Day?

During the American Revolution, Christmas was very "muted" compared to today's standards. Some of the Christmas songs were the same, some of the types of celebrations were the same, but the differences were significant. If you haven't had a chance to listen to Revolutionary War Rarities, please subscribe to our YouTube Channel, join our Facebook group, and listen on your favorite podcast application. We are the Podcast from the Sons of the American Revolution.

Here is the link to our Facebook Group: [\(1\) Revolutionary War Rarities | Facebook](#) Please join.

Here is the link to our YouTube Channel: [\(1\) Revolutionary War Rarities - YouTube](#) Please subscribe.

—Photo by Janice Jennings

Color Guard at BOM

Members of the ALSSAR Color Guard pose for a picture at the American Village during the fall Board of Managers' meeting on Oct. 22. In addition to the regular business, NSSAR President General Bruce Pickette, second row, center, was there to address the BOM and receive his 20-year SAR membership pin.



Alabama Society website has new look

The Alabama Society has a new website! You will find it at the same location as before: alssar.org. You can also go to alabamasocietysar.com or alabamasocietysar.org and it will take you to alssar.org. We continue to use GoDaddy for hosting our website.

The template that our previous website was built on was several years old and the technology was out of date. The current website template is much easier to use and update and is very mobile device friendly.

The previous website had approximately 170 pages and I've managed to build this website with less than 25 pages and keep all the major content. I didn't move all content over since many of the videos were dated and needed to be refreshed.

See the screen shot of the new home page. The portrait that I'm currently using on the home page is an 1819 portrait by Thomas Sully entitled "The Passage of the Delaware." I will change this out from time to time.

One big difference in this new website is we finally have a "Members Only" page. You can see a screen shot of the documents that are available on this page.

You will have to create a username and password when you first visit this page and then I grant you access to the page. Don't lose your username and password since I don't have access to those.

Another difference is the way documents are handled. Previously, all documents were held on the GoDaddy server. With the new template, all documents are held on our State Society Google drive. Thanks to Michael Martin for setting up this drive. Now when you click on a document it is pulling from our drive rather than off the GoDaddy server.

This is your website! If your chapter changes officers, meeting locations, or if you find a link that doesn't work, please let me know. If you are a committee chairman for one of the youth programs and the documents online need to be updated, please let me know. You can either go through the "Contact Us" on the website or email me direct at jhmaples@gmail.com.

—Jim Maples



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

ALSSAR Constitution and By-Laws (pdf)	Download
Chapter President Guide (pdf)	Download
Chapter IRS Reporting (pdf)	Download
Chapter Report to BOM (pdf)	Download
Committee Report to BOM (pdf)	Download
DAR Awards Recognition Program (pdf)	Download
National Congress Delegate Selection (pdf)	Download
Death Notice of Comptroller (pdf)	Download
Retention Guidelines for ALSSAR Archives (pdf)	Download
Alabama Society Member Medal Form (pdf)	Download
Early History of the Alabama Society (pdf)	Download

YOUTH PROGRAM DOCUMENTS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

[OPEN FOLDER](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST

[OPEN FOLDER](#)

EAGLE SCOUT CONTEST

[OPEN FOLDER](#)

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST

[OPEN FOLDER](#)

RUMBAUGH ORATION CONTEST

[OPEN FOLDER](#)

JROTC/ROTC RECOGNITION

[OPEN FOLDER](#)

BOARD OF MANAGERS/ANNUAL MEETING

FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS

Held at the American Village - October 22, 2022
[The Fall 2022 Board of Managers BOM Book - Click to open](#)

SPRING BOARD OF MANAGERS

Held at the American Village - May 14, 2022
[The Spring 2022 Board of Managers BOM Book - Click to open](#)

ANNUAL MEETING

Held at the Hoover Embassy Suites - February 25-26, 2022
[Annual Meeting Book - Click to open](#)

Vickers

(Continued from Page 1)

Ann Ammons, along with children, grandchildren and nieces and nephew.

Chaplain Colonel (Retired) **MARVIN KERON VICKERS JR.** was born on Dec. 12, 1941 in Elmore Station to a Methodist preacher (Marvin Sr.) and a teacher (Helen). He graduated from Troy High School in 1960 and Troy State College in 1963.

That year, he also married his high school sweetheart, Miss Carolyn Ammons. They remained a power couple until Carolyn's untimely death in 2017.

Family history repeated itself as Marvin set out on a career as a Methodist preacher and Carolyn as a teacher.

Marvin was called to ministry at the age of 19. He graduated from the Emory University Candler School of Theology in 1966. Upon his ordination, he began his service to the Alabama West Florida United Methodist Conference. Marvin served the Perote Charge, Goshen Circuit and Seale/Alexandria charge. He and Carolyn were grateful for the early foundation those churches gave. The Seale/Alexandria charge did and will always remain very special to them.

Upon the entrance of the United States into the Vietnam War, Marvin felt a strong calling to serve his country. He took a different ministry route and in 1967 volunteered for duty in the United States Army. Marvin felt then, as he would tell you now, no one needs God's grace, guidance and discernment more than a soldier. Marvin began his military career at Fort Hood, Texas assigned to the 26th Infantry Division "Blue Spaders."

From Fort Hood, he volunteered for assignment in Vietnam. After returning from war, Marvin held assignments at Fort Bragg, N.C.; Kaiserslautern and Karlsruhe, Germany; Fort Wadsworth, N.Y.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Camp Red Cloud, South Korea; Fort Rucker and Fort Gillem, Georgia.

He held positions as Brigade Chaplain, Director of Education US Army Chaplain Board, Installation Chaplain and Installation Staff Chaplain.

Marvin's final assignment was as the Chaplain to the First United States Army at Fort Gillem. While there, he led and trained over 2,000 chaplains and chaplain assistants involving 27 states and 3 U.S. territories. Over his military career, Marvin learned to drive tanks, earned his jump wings, his German jump wings and ministered to the masses. Marvin retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army after almost 31 years of service.

Carolyn had always claimed she would never marry a soldier, a preacher or a farmer (did I mention Marvin farmed pine trees and drove tractors for fun). God had other plans!

Marvin holds a bachelor of science from Troy State College, a master's degree in divinity from Emory University, a master's degree in education from Long Island University and a master's degree in religious education from Princeton University.

Upon his retirement from the Army, he returned to the Alabama West Florida United Methodist Conference and became the executive director of Blue Lake Methodist Assembly. This is where he became known as "Chappy." He greatly loved Blue Lake and the people who visited and worshipped at this special place. He especially loved his summer counselors. Those young people filled him with such joy.

He and Carolyn split their time between Enterprise and Blue Lake during his years as executive director. He retired from Blue Lake and the United Methodist Church in 2009 and was greatly honored when the main gym at Blue Lake was named Vickers Gym.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

ALSSAR president Marvin Vickers, left, presents award to Bruce Buehler at 2014 state convention.

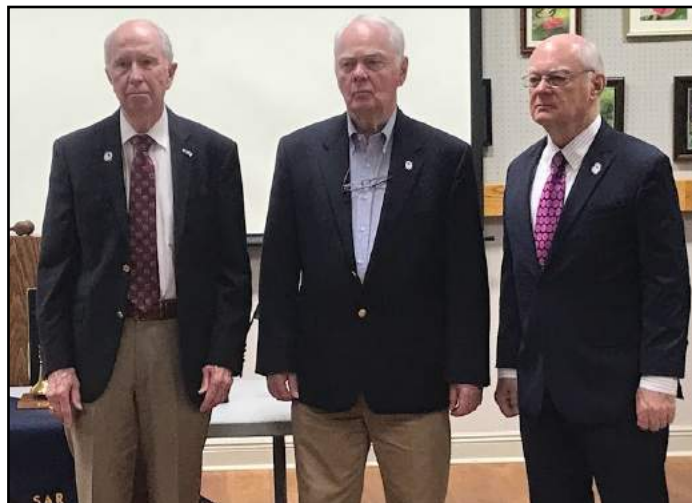
A proud Troy alumnus, Marvin played in the university alumni and community bands. In 1983, Marvin was named Troy State University Alumni of the Year. An avid Harley rider, he enjoyed riding with church friends and the Patriot Guard.

He faithfully attended the First United Methodist Church of Enterprise until his health no longer allowed him to do so.

He was married to Carolyn for 55 years. The lights of his life were their children and their spouses Kristin and Jason Capstraw and Keron III and Tracey Vickers. His greatest joy was being "Chappy" to his four grandchildren Audrey and Alan Vickers and Troy and Emery Capstraw.

Marvin passed away on Oct. 19 after suffering from Lyme Disease for over a decade. He left this world peacefully; surrounded by the laughter of family and friends.

To those who knew him, this was fitting. He should be remembered as a charismatic man with the most infectious laugh who loved everyone.



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

Janice Tidwell, above, is awarded the Martha Washington Medal by PG Bruce Pickette, above left, and ALSSAR president Bill Daniel after induction of, above right, Richard Serviss, center, and Joe Serviss, right, along with Jerry Leake at the November chapter meeting.

NSSAR President General Pickette inducts friends at Cheaha meeting

On Nov. 9, the Cheaha chapter was honored to have NSSAR President General C. Bruce Pickette as its guest.

President General Pickette is a native of the county, a graduate of Jacksonville State University and a long time friend of the Cheaha chapter. His purpose in this visit was to induct into the Alabama Society a fellow JSU alumnus, Joe Serviss, and his brother Richard, along with Jerry Leake.

Also at the ceremony, Janice Tidwell, sister to the Serviss brothers being inducted, was awarded the Martha Washington Medal from the Alabama SAR for her work on the Serviss family's patriotic and genealogical history.

Tidwell has been responsible for adding four new members to the SAR chapters.

Also assisting in the induction and award were ALSSAR president Bill Daniel and ASSAR registrar Ron Bearden.

The guest speaker at the November chapter meeting was Dr. Morgan Silvers, who presented a program on the life of an illustrious Founding Father, Patrick Henry.

—William Rozier



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

PG Pickette with, from left, vice president Eric Sloughfy, secretary John Gruenewald, president Bob Folsom and treasurer William Rozier.



—Photo courtesy of Edmon McKinley

Christmas for veterans

Gen. Galvez chapter compatriots deliver gifts to the veterans at the William F. Greene State Veterans Home in Bay Minette. Compatriots contributed nearly \$1,700 for gifts including drinks, popsicles, bird seed, snack treats and clothing items. This has been an annual chapter project for a number of years. Compatriots Tommy Rhodes, left, and chapter Veterans' Committee Chairman Edmon McKinley delivered the gifts.



—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

Tennessee Valley compatriots hold grave-marking ceremony for Richard Cavett in Meridianville on Nov. 13.

Goal

(Continued from Page 1)

Many events also included local officials, DAR, CAR and other guests.

Our group decided to challenge itself and set a goal of conducting a minimum of 30 grave markings prior to our country's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026.

Our first milestone was to have six grave markings during 2022. It was exciting when we met that milestone on Dec. 4. Only 24 to go!!

This program fits well with the rich environment in north Alabama of patriots' final resting places. The sad part was that most of these patriots were buried in family cemeteries. A large portion of these cemeteries were left to deteriorate because many of their descendents moved on to Texas and other westward locations leaving no one with attachments to take care of them.

Some of these cemeteries have required a significant amount of work. Our first cemetery worked this year took an entire day of work to clear a path just to get to the first headstone. All the work is being done with volunteers who have donated many hours of service.

We normally have three or four cemeteries working at the same time. One of our cemeteries has been active for over a year and I estimate it will be another year before we are able to do the grave marking at old Gray Cemetery in Madison City.

We hope to get more Scout involvement this year.

Another exciting development came early in the year when I contacted the Pomeroy Foundation in upstate New York. Pomeroy has a grant program for historic signs for patriot burials.

Our first hurdle was to get Alabama included in the program. With the help of ALSSAR president Bill Daniel, we were able to get Alabama included in the grant program for these beautiful signs. We were able to get five applications in for Alabama

before the 2022 deadline.

The first one was just approved in December and the check is on the way for the first historic sign from Pomeroy to be installed at the Eldridge Cemetery for patriot John Peyton Powell.

The other four applications are still in the approval process at Pomeroy Foundation. Once the sign is fabricated and installed at the cemetery, we will have a grand ceremony at the sign unveiling.

In 2022, our chapter has completed grave markings for the following list of patriots and cemeteries:

- Crawford-Ryan Cemetery- William Ryan (1755-1836)
- Russell Cemetery (Pines)-Electious Thompson (1750-1840)
- Eldridge Cemetery- John Peyton Powell (1760-1840)
- Cavett-Boggs Cemetery-Richard Cavett (1763-1844)
- Hobbs Cemetery- George Hallmark (1740-1809)
- Davie Cemetery- Robert Davie (1756-1846)

—Benny Hannah



—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

ALSSAR Color Guard and family members gather at Robert Davie ceremony in Hazel Green on Dec. 4.



—Photos courtesy of Jason Williams

Richard Henry Lee chapter welcomes ALSSAR president, installs new officers for 2023

Richard Henry Lee chapter president Bob Harris, above left, welcomes ALSSAR president Bill Daniel and his wife Sally for the December meeting before Daniel installed Harris and chapter officers for 2023, above right.

Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

At the conclusion of the youth luncheon at 2 p.m., smaller groups will make presentations on the America 250 project, public relations, patriot grave marking, color guard, honor guard and Americanism.

The Saturday evening banquet will include the annual awards presentation as well as the installation of new ALSAR officers. A nominating committee consisting of former ALSSAR presidents Edmon McKinley, Jim Maples and David Jones recommended the following compatriots for office:

James Griffith Jr., president, Tennessee Valley; Michael Martin, vice president, Cahaba-Coosa; Benny Hannah, secretary, Tennessee Valley; Dr. Paul Petznick, recording secretary, Birmingham; Scott Martin, treasurer, Cahaba-Coosa; Ron Bearden, registrar, Little River; Rev. Buddy Irvin, chaplain, Black Warrior; 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; Bill Daniel, trustee, Cahaba-Coosa; and Griffith, alternate trustee.

The committee, chaired by McKinley, also provided a nominee, David Jones (Black Warrior), to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Fund Board, joining Stephen Hooks (Etowah), who is currently finishing out a two-year term, and John Wallace (Wiregrass), who is finishing out the last year of his three-year term.

The Board of Manager voted to move the convention to a permanent centralized location in 2018 after being previously held at the site of the reigning president. It moved to Prattville's Legends Marriott in 2018 and then to the Hoover Embassy Suites in 2019, where it has remained for four of the last five years. It was held at the American Village's Liberty Hall in 2021 because of the pandemic.

A registration form for the hotel and the convention can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.



—Photo courtesy of David Michael Martin

Shoals Area chapter presents Heroism Medal

Shoals president Greg Gresham, right, presents Rogersville police officer Tyler Dison with award for his rescue of 3-year-old in apartment fire in March.



**Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Annual Business Meeting and Convention Registration
February 24-25, 2023
Hoover, Alabama**



Hotel Reservation Information
Hoover Embassy Suites
2960 John Hawkins Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone Number: 205-985-9994

SPECIAL ROOM RATE:

Room Type	Rate
Standard King NS	\$139.00
Standard 2 Queen NS	\$149.00
King Executive NS	\$169.00

PER NIGHT PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES

Use Sons of the American Revolution to get the special rate if you call the hotel

ONLINE HOTEL REGISTRATION LINK AT: alssar.org/events

ATTENDEES MUST MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS (cutoff date is February 3)

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 1:00pm – 3:00pm—Presented by ALSSAR Registrar Ron Bearden *Number attending*

DNA BASICS _____

Friday 3:15pm – 4:15pm—Presented by ALSSAR President Bill Daniel *Number attending*

& ALSSAR Genealogist Earl Gillian

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.)

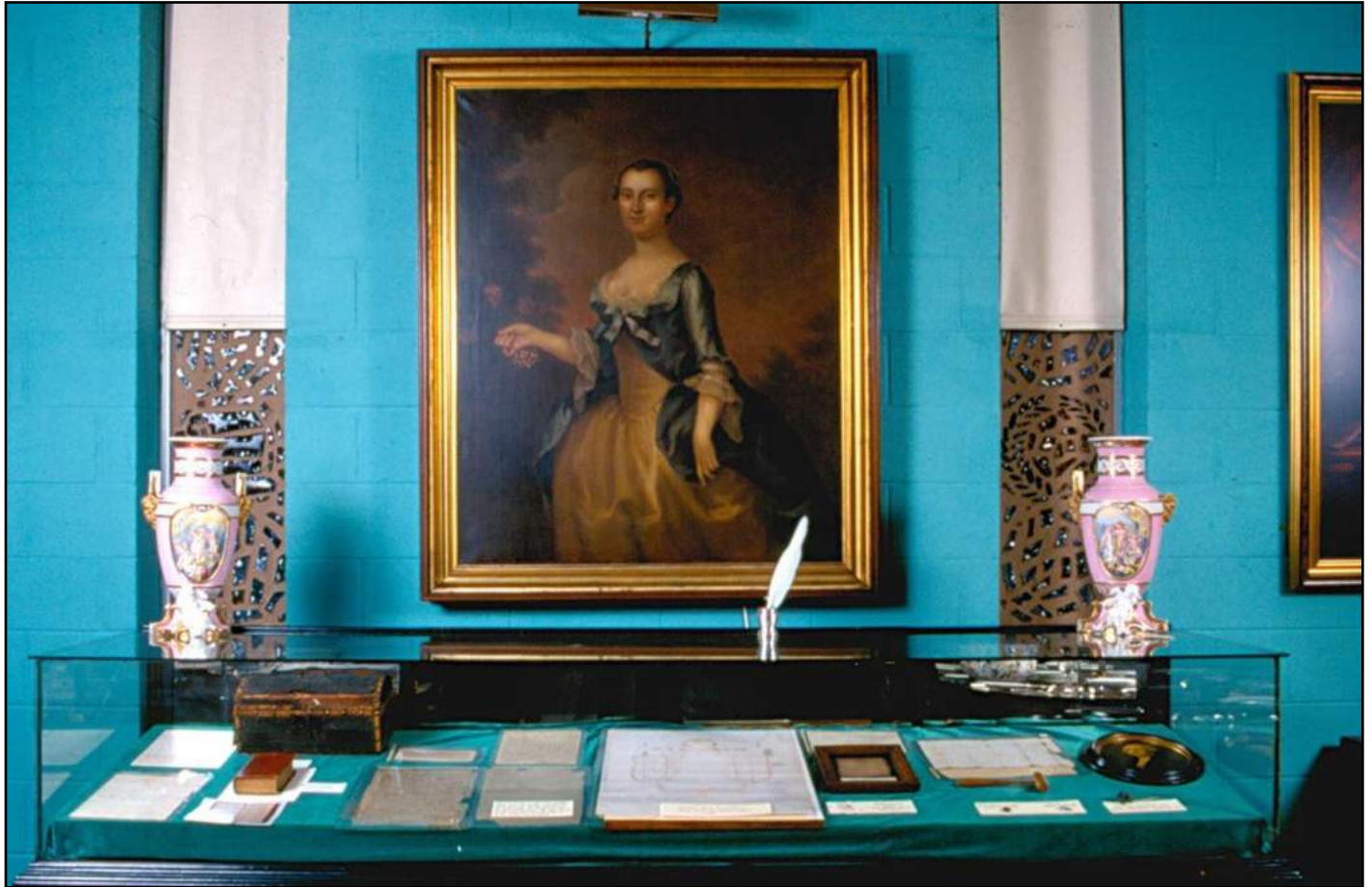
Social/Cash Bar 5:30pm-6:30pm Dinner 6:30pm _____ x \$55 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Topic for Saturday afternoon mini sessions after the Youth Awards are being developed (NO COST): America 250 SAR, > Public Relations, > Patriot Grave Marking, > Color Guard, > Honor Guard, > Americanism.

A headcount for meals and the reception must be provide to the hotel by **Friday, February 3, 2023**, so please have your registration in by that date. Mail your registration form along with you check payable to **ALSSAR Convention** to:

**John Van Zandt
ALSSAR 2023 Convention
P.O. Box 434
Fairhope, AL 36533-0434**



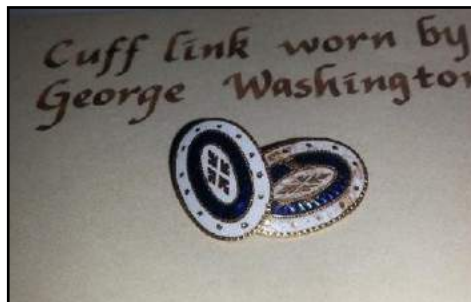
Looking for an Alabama connection to George Washington? Check out the Harrison Regional Library in Columbiana

Ever been to Columbiana, Alabama? As a compatriot of the ALSSAR you should make the trip. Alabama has a little known Material Culture connection there to a leader of the great struggle for American freedom. The Karl C Harrison Museum of George Washington, currently housed in the Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library at 50 Lester Street.

The basis for this collection is from a former resident of Shelby County, Charlotte Smith Weaver, a sixth generation granddaughter of Martha Washington! In the 1980s she decided to share her legacy with the public.

As stated on their web site: "The Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington collection focuses on art and artifacts from the colonial period through 1865. The collection contains paintings, letters, furniture, porcelain, glassware, silver, jewelry, busts and more.

"Martha Washington's prayer book



printed in New York in 1783, an original 1787 Samuel Vaughn sketch of Mt. Vernon grounds, writing instruments and tools from George Washington's survey case and an original tintype depicting Robert E. Lee in his uniform for the last time are just a few collection highlights."

As I have frequently found in the past, visits to smaller museums and collections are the most informative and personable. The present curator, Donald Relyea,

does not disappoint. He is very knowledgeable about the collection and enjoys giving tours and speaking with visitors.

Relyea is a retired accountant and retired Army Reserve master sergeant. In 2005 he reenlisted into the First Pennsylvania Regiment, a history reenactment group dedicated to portraying a unit of the "First Continental Line" that served during the entire Revolutionary War.

It was a small step to volunteering at the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington, and after a while he was offered his current position as curator and has been there nine years.

The museum is currently operating on donations, so please take the trip to Columbiana, give them your dime and see this wonderful treasure right here in Alabama!

Contact www.washingtonmuseum.com or phone (205) 669-8767 for more info.

—M. P. Brady

**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 Joseph Barker

Alabama Society Color Guard presents the colors at Birmingham Bowl

The Alabama Society Color Guard presented the colors for the national anthem at the 2022 Birmingham Bowl between Coastal Carolina and East Carolina on Dec 27. From left: Bill Daniel, Cade McCool, Randal Jennings, Lawrence Hillis, Michael Martin and ALSSAR Color Guard commander Joseph Barker.