

The Musket Report



Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter ALSSAR

Enterprise, Alabama
Home of the Boll Weevil Monument
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Next Meeting

The 15 April Meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Enterprise Country Club. Cost of the meal is \$10 per person. Please notify President Kelsoe by Monday, April 12 if you and any guests will attend. Our speaker for this meeting will be ALSSAR President Bruce Pickette. His topic will be You and the S.A.R.”

March Meeting

The 18 March meeting saw 23 in attendance with 16 members and 7 guests. We welcome as a new member Bill Biase who transferred from his old chapter to our chapter.

Our program was presented by Jack Oden whose topic was “Somebody in My Bed.” The program detailed information about frontier taverns in the early 19th century. These were community and public gathering places as well as hostleries and barrooms were infested with bedbugs, fleas, and tobacco chewers. Their dining rooms were places of wild scrambling and gouging for food.

Notes

- BOM meeting will be May 22 .
- R.O.T. C. Medals will soon be presented to students at area high schools and Troy University
- John Wallace is working on an application for Dr. Jack Anderson whose father was an S.A. R. member
- Grave marking for John Griffin of Troy will be Conducted 3rd weekend in October. Presented to students at local area high schools and Troy University.

April, 1775

As we approach the 235th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. Let us not forget the sacrifices our patriot ancestors endured.

The “shot heard round the world” first began in Lexington as 70 Massachusetts minutemen who had been forewarned by Paul Revere, made a brief stand against British regular forces. The British forces cleared the green with a volley and charge leaving 8 militia dead and 10 wounded.



The British then marched to Concord to destroy the colonial stash of arms and powder. The British did succeed but they were met by larger colonial forces where a pitched battle ensued at the Old North Bridge. The militia inflicted heavy losses on the British forces and eventually the British retreated to Boston but were decimated by colonial militia losing 73 dead and 174 wounded.

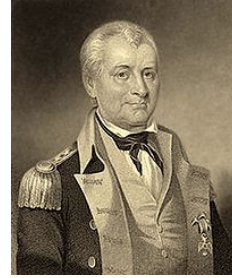
Thus began 8 long years of our struggle for independence.



Current view of Old North Bridge in Concord

Wilson Luck 1929-2010

We pass on the sad news that one of our compatriots died on March 12. Wilson became a member of Wiregrass in 2001 and served as historian for a number of years. He was a military veteran and an avid aviator. His presence will sorely be missed at our meetings.



Military Leaders of the American Revolution - General Lachlan McIntosh

McIntosh was an early leader in the independence movement, served in the defense of Savannah, as commander of the Western Department of the Army for two years and finally served in the defense of Charleston. With the defeat of Charleston he remained a prisoner for two years.

His non-military life was quite interesting. McIntosh was born near Raits, Badenoch, Scotland. McIntosh's father, John McIntosh Mohr, moved the family to Georgia in 1736 with a group of Scottish settlers founding the town of Darien, Georgia, (formerly New Inverness). Georgia was a highly militarized colony and clashes with neighboring Spanish Florida and its fortress city of St. Augustine were common. In one of these clashes in 1740, Lachlan's father was captured by the Spanish and held prisoner for two years. The elder McIntosh was eventually released, but his health had deteriorated during his captivity and he died a few years later.

McIntosh was sent to the Bethesda Orphanage in Savannah under the care of famous evangelist George Whitefield. He spent two years at the orphanage before traveling to Fort Frederica to serve as a military cadet. During this time, the Jacobite Rebellion broke out in Scotland. Lachlan and his brother William planned to travel to Scotland and join the rebellion, but General James Oglethorpe, who had become a friend and mentor to the young McIntosh, convinced them to remain in Georgia.

In 1748, McIntosh moved to Charleston, South Carolina, and took a position as a clerk for Henry Laurens, a wealthy merchant, who would become a lifelong friend and mentor. In 1756 he married Sarah Threadcraft. He soon returned to Georgia where he studied surveying and acquired land in the Altamaha River delta and became a prosperous rice planter.

Duel with Button Gwinnett

During the period of 1776 to 1777, McIntosh became embroiled in a bitter political dispute with Button Gwinnett, the Speaker of the Georgia Provisional Congress and a radical Whig leader. Their bitter personal rivalry began when the more moderate McIntosh succeeded Gwinnett as commander of Georgia's Continental Battalion in early 1776. Gwinnett had been forced to step aside after his election had been called into question by opposing forces within the independence movement. Gwinnett, thwarted in his military ambitions, became a delegate to the Continental Congress and a signer of the United States Declaration of Independence. He returned to Georgia after his allies gained control of the Provisional Congress and succeeded in electing him speaker. Shortly afterward, he was elected president and commander-in-chief of the Committee of Safety.

Gwinnett began purging the government and military of his political rivals. One of the early targets of Gwinnett's wrath was McIntosh's brother George, who had opposed Gwinnett's election. George was arrested and charged with treason against the revolution. In addition, Gwinnett had ordered McIntosh to lead a poorly planned and poorly led military expedition into British Florida. The operation was a disaster and both Gwinnett and McIntosh publicly blamed each other for the failure further straining the already tenuous relationship between the two men.

On May 1, 1777, Lachlan McIntosh addressed the Georgia assembly denouncing Gwinnett in the harshest terms calling him a "scoundrel and lying rascal." Gwinnett called on McIntosh and demanded an apology or satisfaction. McIntosh refused to apologize and Gwinnett challenged him to a duel.

On May 16, in a field owned by James Wright a few miles east of Savannah, Gwinnett and McIntosh met to duel with pistols. At a distance of 12 paces, the two men leveled and fired. Gwinnett received a ball to the hip and McIntosh was struck in the leg. McIntosh would recover from his wounds, but Gwinnett's wound was mortal and he died three days later. Gwinnett's allies had McIntosh charged with murder, but he was acquitted in the ensuing trial. George Washington, fearing Gwinnett's allies would take revenge on McIntosh, ordered him to report to Continental Army headquarters on October 10. He spent the winter of 1777-1778 with the Continental Army at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where he commanded several regiments of North Carolina troops.

Later years

McIntosh returned to his plantation to find it ruined by the occupying British. McIntosh tried to restore his property and business interests, but he would spend the rest of his life in relative poverty. He was elected to the Continental Congress in 1784, but never attended. In 1785, he was appointed a commissioner to treat with the southern American Indian tribes. In 1787, he was asked to help settle a boundary dispute between Georgia and South Carolina. In 1791, he was part of the delegation that officially welcomed President George Washington to Georgia.

McIntosh died in Savannah, Georgia on February 20, 1806. The state of Georgia named McIntosh County in honor of his family. McIntosh is buried alongside his great-nephew Colonel James S. McIntosh (1784-1847) at Colonial Park in Savannah's historic district.