

# The Musket Report



## Newsletter of the Wiregrass Chapter ALSSAR

Enterprise, Alabama  
Home of the Boll Weevil Monument  
February, 2010



Mr. John Kelson, President jkelson@entercomp.com  
347-1493

Editor: Dr. Jack P. Oden jpoden@roadrunner.com j  
347-7831



### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Wiregrass Chapter, S.A.R. will be held at 11:340 a.m. , Thursday, 18, February at the Enterprise Country Club. Please let President Kelson know by Monday, 15 February if you and any guest will attend. The cost of the meal is \$10 per person. The program for our next meeting will be the viewing of a DVD about the "Battle of the Cowpens." Since this is the 225th anniversary of that event it should be an interesting film. In addition, each member is asked to bring at least one book to donate for our giving to the V.A. Center in Bay Minette.

### JANUARY MEETING

The chapter met on 21 January and we had 16 members and 1 guest present for the occasion. A supplemental membership certificate was awarded to Franz Kellebew for his patriot ancestor Josiah Nichols. Franz is also working on two more supplemental.

Attendees viewed the new DVD featuring President General Ed Butler on what the National S.A.R. has to offer to the nation. Dr. Butler's goals this year are to "modernize, publicize, and socialize the S.A.R. He gave several examples of what chapters could do to implement each of these points.

### Committee Chairmanship Assignments Made by President Kelson

Programs—Marvin Vickers; Membership—John Wallace; Historical Sites—Jack Oden; Awards—Flags, Andy Spann; ROTC, John Ray Fuller; Eagle Scout—John Wallace; Law enforcement and Fires Safety, Dwight Adams; Color Guard, Joe Graves.

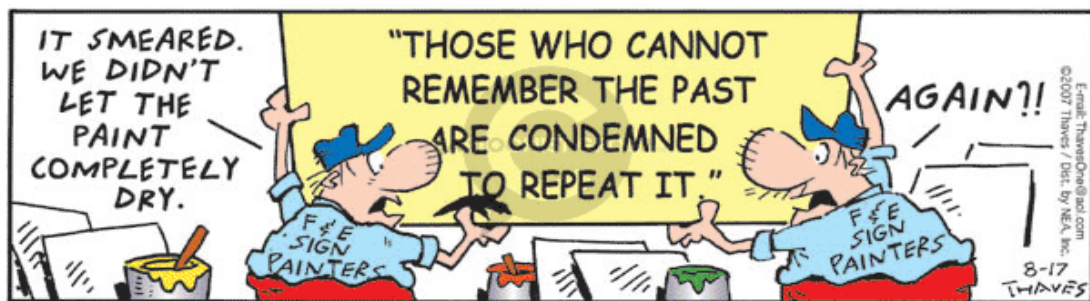
**SAR/DAR Constitution Week** will be observed 16 September, 2010.

### Grave marking

We will conduct another grave marking this fall. This will be held on Sunday, 17 October, 2010 near Troy. It will be to honor the memory of Revolutionary War veteran John Griffin. More details will be provided as we move toward this event.

### 20th Anniversary Celebration.

President Kelson recommends that since 2012 will be the 20th anniversary of the chartering of our chapter, we should begin to collect material to produce a special scrapbook commemorating our history. His idea is to produce this as an Adobe Reader publication.



**Compatriot Wilson Luck.** Wilson is continuing to improve each day according to wife Lucy. He has been undergoing therapy for his recent hip surgery. He should be getting home about Friday, January 29..

**State Convention.** The annual State Convention will be held February 26-27 at the Hilton Perimeter Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration forms for the convention may be downloaded from the state web site: [www.alssar.org](http://www.alssar.org). You must turn in this form by February 5 to register for the convention. Information about the hotel is also listed on the state web site.

**Books for Veterans** John Ray Fuller took 155 books for the veterans at the V.A. Center in Bay Minette, the third week of January.



**Johann von Robaii, Baron de Kalb** (June 19, 1721 – August 19, 1780), born **Johann Kalb**, was a German soldier who In 1777,

He returned again with his protégé, the Marquis de Lafayette, and joined the Continental Army. He was disappointed and angry to(June 19, 1721 – August 19, 1780), born **Johann Kalb**, was a German soldier who served as a major general in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. learn, at first that he would not be made a major general,<sup>[2]</sup> but after Lafayette's influence, was appointed on September 5, 1777, while he was on the road to leave for France.

He was at Valley Forge for most of the 1777–78 winter, and commanded a division of Patterson's and Learned's Brigades. He wrote letters of introduction for John Adams to the French court.<sup>[3]</sup> De Kalb wrote:

*On the whole, I have annoyances to bear, of which you can hardly form a conception. One of them is the mutual jealousy of almost all the French officers, particularly against those of higher rank than the rest. These people think of nothing but their incessant intrigues and backbitings. They hate each other like the bitterest enemies, and endeavor to injure each other wherever an opportunity offers. I have given up their society, and very seldom see them. La Fayette is the sole exception; I always meet him with the same cordiality and the same pleasure. He is an excellent young man, and we are good friends.... La Fayette is much liked, he is on the best of terms with Washington.*

He was assigned the command of a division of Maryland and Delaware troops, and was ordered south as reinforcements. During the British southern campaign, he was disappointed to learn that Horatio Gates had been appointed to command instead of him. At the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780, de Kalb's horse was killed, causing him to tumble to the ground, where he was shot three times and bayoneted repeatedly by the British. His friend and aide, the Chevalier du Buysson, was seriously wounded blocking additional blows with his own body.

It has been reported, that Cornwallis supervised while De Kalb's wounds were dressed by his own surgeons in Camden, South Carolina. De Kalb replied to a British officer, "I thank you sir for your generous sympathy, but I die the death I always prayed for: the death of a soldier fighting for the rights of man."<sup>[4]</sup> He died three days later and was buried in Camden.<sup>[5]</sup>