

Felisha Anderson

From: Claudia Campbell <claudia_cmpbll@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:14 PM
To: Anu Gary
Subject: America 250 Bench placement at the Bicentennial Park

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Dear Anu,
Please forward this to our County Commissioners. I will be happy to come speak to them about this Memorial Bench or the Ft Mims Reenactment request I sent in on Friday. Just let me know as soon as possible.
Thanks so much,
Claudia

Dear Commissioners,

The Fort Mims, Bon Secour, and Ft Bowyer Chapters Daughters of the American Revolution are seeking permission to place a granite bench near the monuments dedicated to veterans of all wars at the beautiful Bicentennial Park in Stockton. America's 250th Anniversary is fast approaching (2026), and our DAR Chapters have noted that there has not been any recognition brought to the Revolutionary War and those Patriots who settled in Baldwin County. Working with the National Society DAR, we would like to place a bench as an early recognition for these patriots and then have a ceremony dedicating it. Our DAR chapters will incur all costs and have the bench professionally placed by February 2025, hopefully somewhere near the monuments that have already been placed.

The Bicentennial Park is well known throughout the County and these chapters, along with others, are very excited about the possibility of adding to the beautiful memorials at the park. DAR is a close-knit, patriotic group and in Baldwin County, the number reaches well over 150 area women!

I would be happy to make a presentation to the Commission, but I am attaching a photo of the proposed Am250 bench to 'Recognize Revolutionary Patriots Who Settled in Baldwin County, Alabama'. Many descendants of these patriots still reside in the County and they will be invited to the ceremony, and of course, all interested Commissioners and historians in the area will be invited to attend.

We are very excited about this possibility and anxiously await your decision to allow us to place the bench.

I would like to add something extra at this time as food for thought. For 250 years, only ONE Revolutionary Patriot has been recognized in Baldwin County--Zachariah Godbold. Now we know of several more who settled in Baldwin County, most along the Tensaw River corridor.

Possibly in November 2026, our DAR chapters would like to also recognize these men and their service during the American Revolution with a beautiful, amazing monument placed at the very front of the other monuments at the Bicentennial Park. With a great deal of your help, this could be accomplished!

Here are the names that we are presently researching:

Samuel Griffin is already a recognized Patriot. Through research and the help of many descendants, our DAR chapters are working to 'prove' the service of Gerald Byrne who settled at Byrne's Lake, John Davis who settled near Blakeley, John Weekley who settled near Lake Tensaw at Hubbard's Landing in Latham, Charles Hall who settled near Carpenter or Carpenter's Station, and possibly more will be found as research continues.

What better time to recognize these men than now-- at the time of America's 250th Birthday?! Baldwin County was settled by these men and their contributions helped shape this wonderful place we all call home. Their descendants are plentiful throughout this and surrounding counties, and with your help and support, as we head toward the actual 250th in 2026, we could complete a county-wide research project to include all Revolutionary Patriots who settled here. We could decide on a fabulous monument that would be appropriate to honor those who served during the founding days of our Country. An outstanding 'celebration of a lifetime' can be held as the monument- engraved with the names of all proven Patriots- is unveiled at the Bicentennial Park. Included would be the many descendants, a parade with reenactors in Rev War uniforms, flags, marching bands, fireworks, and even more, as we all learn together about these brave men and their service...finally recognized by the place they called home.

I look forward to hearing from you and I would happily answer any questions you may have. Please note the photo below of the proposed bench.

With Best Regards,
Claudia Slaughter Campbell
Ft Mims Ch DAR, Am250 Chairman

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~ America 250 ~

1776 - 2026

*Honoring Revolutionary Patriots who settled in
Baldwin County, Alabama*

BON SECOUR, FT. BOWYER AND FT. MIMS CHAPTERS NSDAR